

1926

## Florida's great hurricane

Joe Hugh Reese

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# Florida's GREAT HURRICANE

*by*  
*Joe Hugh Reese*

OFFICIAL ACCOUNT

*Illustrated*



1926:  
GENERAL PRINTING CO.  
MIAMI, FLORIDA







CALM AFTER THE STORM---MIAMI SKYLINE AS IT APPEARED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE HURRICANE.



*In Memory  
of those who perished in the  
Great Hurricane,  
September 18, 1926*

# Florida's Great Hurricane

By

JOE HUGH REESE

*Author of "Florida Flashlights," "The Everglades," Etc.*



Price \$1

Library Edition, in Cloth, \$2.50

Postage prepaid

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Mr. Joe Hugh Reese,  
Miami, Florida.

My dear Mr. Reese:-

I understand that you have written and are about to publish a book in connection with the Miami Storm under the title of "Florida's Great Hurricane".

When this book is published we would like very much to have the first consignment to be offered for sale in our Book Department, and you may rest assured that we will co-operate with you to the fullest extent in its circulation.

I am glad to add that we have known you personally for the last twenty years, and the writer has read some of your literature. We certainly wish you the success that we know you deserve in the publication of this book.

Yours very truly,

R. B. Burdine

RBB:C

*Bears the Stamp of Official Approval*

Address correspondence to  
Official in Charge  
Local Office, Weather Bureau

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LOCAL OFFICE OF THE WEATHER BUREAU

Miami, Florida, October 30, 1926.

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that the author of the volume to be known as "Florida's Great Hurricane," Joe Hugh Reese, spent many hours in my office, collating data concerning the hurricane of September 18, 1926, and other hurricanes of importance ;that personally I assisted him in drafting the drawings and other matter to be presented in his book, and revised that part of his manuscript relating to the official record of the storm. It gives me pleasure to state that this information is accurate and correct, and, so far as I am informed; Mr. Reese is the only writer who has spent so much time in diligent and painstaking endeavor to write a story of the great disaster which may be accepted as truly and officially accurate.

(Signed):

*P. W. Gray,*

-----  
Meteorologist,  
-----

U. S. Weather Bureau.  
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## Acknowledgments

**I** WISH to make formal avowal of my appreciation in the preparation of this volume to the courteous aid and encouragement given me by Richard W. Gray, meteorologist in charge of the United States Weather Bureau at Miami; to Lysle W. Fesler, the publisher; to M. M. Magner, superintendent, M. Somes, foreman of the General Printing Company, and others in that establishment who have rendered instant and gracious assistance; to the Sell Art Shop, and Mr. Searles, the artist, who prepared the prints for the engraver, and to the Commercial Photo Engraving Company, for efficient service. Due acknowledgment is made also for photographs reproduced herein. Those which depict the horrors of the Moore Haven disaster were obtained from J. C. Brossier, editor of the Orlando Reporter-Star, which paper had a representative on the scene soon after the flood. To these, and all others who have helped me, I cheerfully acknowledge the most profound and grateful obligations.

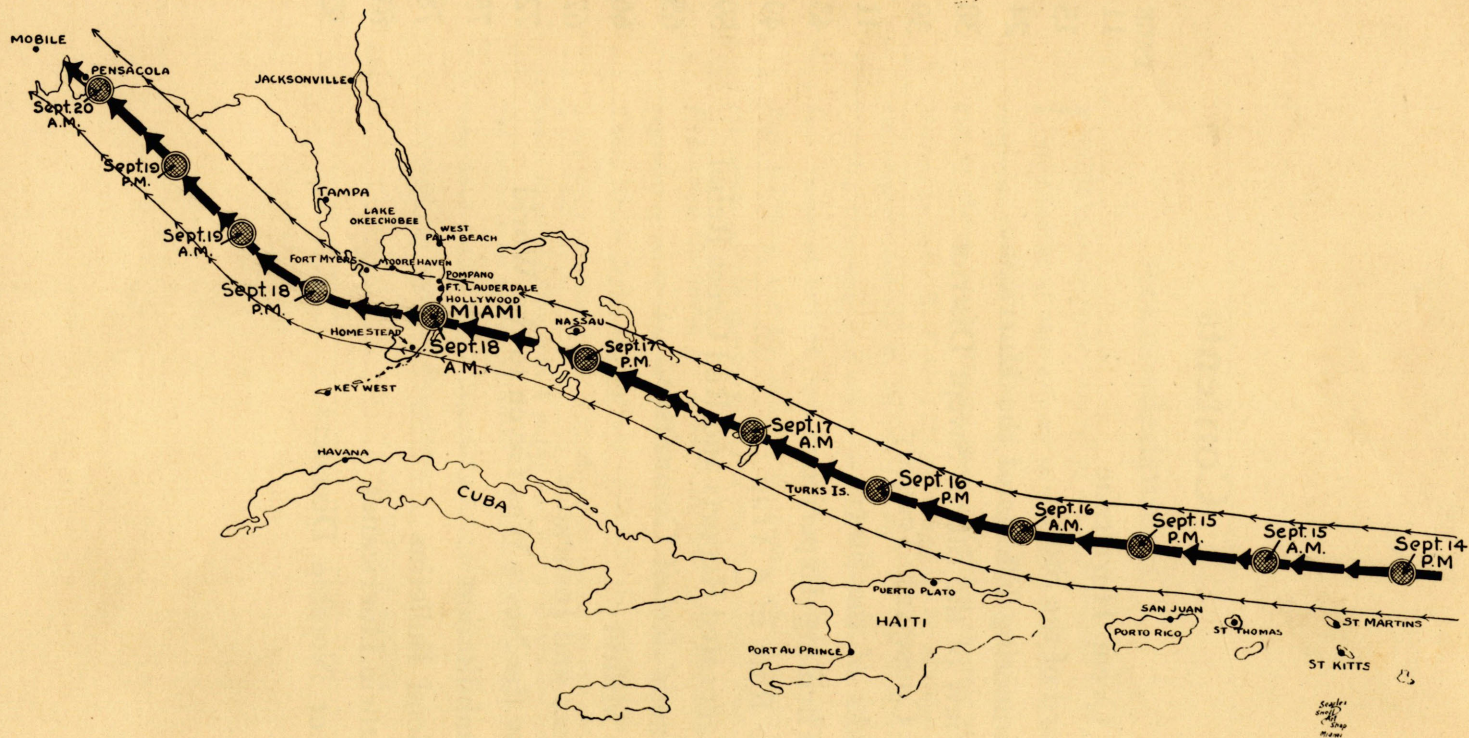
JOE HUGH REESE



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THE HURRICANE WAS TRAVELING SEVEN DAYS, SEPTEMBER 14-20. THE CHART SHOWS PATH OF THE STORM, 60 MILES WIDE. ITS PROGRESS EVERY TWELVE HOURS IS MARKED BY CIRCLES. THIS SKETCH WAS DRAWN UNDER DIRECTION OF RICHARD W. GRAY, METEOROLOGIST IN CHARGE OF THE MIAMI OFFICE OF THE U. S. WEATHER BUREAU.



## *The Great Hurricane*

WHEN first I thought of writing a story of the Great Hurricane, which left a wide path of destruction across the Florida peninsula the morning of Saturday, September 18th, 1926, it seemed that such a book might have a large sale, provided it could be published upon the heel of the storm, but the obstacles in the way of doing this were so obvious that I did not entertain the idea.

In the first place it was impossible to collect data sufficiently complete to make such a story valuable as a permanent record, and I could not bring myself to view the enterprise in such a mercenary light as to publish a hurriedly written account.

I do not wish it to be inferred from this that I am setting up any claim to absolute accuracy or completeness for the story herewith presented. Even as I write, two weeks after the disaster, I am conscious that there is much of interest, no doubt, that has not come to light. The Citizens' Relief Committee, which was organized immediately following the storm, has turned affairs over to the Red Cross, and that organization itself has terminated what is termed "bulk relief," and all requisitions for individual relief are now being made in regular form. So the Florida storm has passed definitely into history, though Red Cross probably will not complete its work for several months. More space is being given at this time in the newspapers to the World Series than to the hurricane, and yet, so far as I know, no comprehensive narrative has been published.

Newspapers and magazines hardly could undertake such a task, though many writers performed creditable and courageous service during and after the storm. They deserve the highest praise for their daring and painstaking labor. Yet withal, the manner in which their accounts were published caused them to be fragmentary, hence there is a hiatus to be filled if the Great Hurricane is to have its proper place in history as one of the most destructive attacks ever visited by angry elements upon the lives and works of men.

I do not hesitate to say that estimates of damage probably have been the veriest guess work. It is likely, also, that the full number of those whose lives were lost never will be accurately known. The best that can be done under the circumstances is to accept such re-



ports as are available. The agencies for gathering information could not be, in the very nature of things, thoroughly efficient. It is necessary to cite only one instance in proof of this opinion. Moore Haven was a town of about 1200 persons. The exact population was not known, and it is necessary to rely upon speculation to arrive at an estimate of the number lost.

The Everglades News, edited by Howard Sharp, the most painstaking journalist that ever I knew, states that at least 300, probably more, lives at Moore Haven were taken by the storm. The official report accounts for only 150.

It is certain that the population of that great territory bordering the southern shores of Lake Okeechobee was not definitely known though it is placed doubtfully at several thousand. "Several" is a very nebulous word. Generally it is accepted to mean more than two, which also is indefinite. So far as reports show the greatest loss of life was at Moore Haven, but there was no loss of life north or east of the lake. Many persons scattered through a broad area south of the lake lived in the veriest shacks that could not have withstood a storm of such violence, and it is easy to imagine that scores might have been killed without any record being made of their deaths. The hazards that persons take who live in such sparsely settled regions are emphasized, if not magnified, by such occurrences. It was difficult to reach or get out of some of the centers that were known to have been severely damaged, such as Moore Haven and Miami. The first intelligent accounts of the damage at Miami reached the outside world Saturday night and the manner in which the news was carried has been made the subject of a heroic story, so there is no cause to wonder if many in small communities and isolated places perished where they were, or while seeking the shelter and succor that their more substantially housed neighbors might have given. I have no doubt that the future will reveal that many died thus, and it is possible that there were others, self-effacing beings, intent only upon making a living in some remote place, without friends or relatives, who also were victims of the storm. Only slight mention has been made of those who were lost at sea and in the turbulent waters of Florida's great lake. In spite of the admirable service of the Weather Bureau, there were those who received no warning and had no means of being advised of the approaching storm. There were probably hundreds of fishermen who farmed the waters of Lake



Okeechobee and hundreds of others who sought the harvest of the sea in small boats, who had no warning. As a rule such persons do not attract much attention in a community. They lead hermit lives and little if any notice is taken of their comings and goings. How many of these went down may never be known.

I believe the Florida hurricane will be ranked among the most frightful of natural calamities. For this reason the story appears to be of sufficient importance to have a permanent place in public and private libraries all over the land. If it is given such a measure of reward and appreciation, I shall be satisfied that I undertook the labor, though it was performed under difficulties.

These words are written by candle light in the living room of my residence which was riddled by the storm. The roof was taken off, every awning was shattered and shredded, the screens were crushed in, the concrete coping was blown off in chunks and blocked the doorways, the ceiling and the walls were ruined, the whole house was flooded and we were left without shelter. At this time my wife and six children are away, having accepted the hospitality of relatives until necessary repairs can be made. I make mention of these things because I am not writing from hearsay or casual observation. We were in the midst of the storm, and though I had witnessed, or experienced, other hurricanes, I assert unreservedly that no storm of such fierce intensity ever has visited this region, and I believe it well within the realm of verity to say that never before has this country experienced any disturbance of a more terrifying character. This opinion is substantiated by Weather Bureau records.

I have made particular mention of Moore Haven because the mortality was greater there than anywhere and the loss of human life is more to be mourned and considered than property damage.

Miami was the greatest sufferer in property loss, but the number of dead from the storm in Miami was 115; not inconsiderable nor inconsequential, and not to be passed over without sorrow, but, comparatively speaking, Moore Haven's loss was nearly two hundred times greater. The sternest reproach to come out of the storm is probably that the demolition of Moore Haven might have been averted, for it was destroyed by flood waters from Lake Okeechobee rather than by force of the wind. Of this more will appear in the following pages.

THE AUTHOR.

Miami, Florida, October 5, 1926.





SCENES LIKE THIS ALONG THE WATER FRONT WERE THE RULE RATHER THAN THE EXCEPTION.



## *Record of the Storm*

**R**ICHARD W. GRAY, meteorologist, has been in charge of the Miami Weather Bureau office since it was established in 1911. Prior to that time Miami was only a co-operative station, and for many years the records were kept and the signals hoisted by Dr. E. V. Blackman, who was performing such duties October 18, 1906, when the hurricane of that date struck the lower Keys and caused the loss of many lives and the destruction of much property on the Key West extension of the Florida East Coast railroad, then being built by Henry M. Flagler.

Dr. Blackman and other of the older residents who retain vivid recollections of that storm are still living in Miami. At that time Miami was populated by only a few thousand, and Miami Beach was a mangrove swamp. The storm tides flooded the island just as they did during the recent hurricane, and when the waters had receded heavy timbers and other wreckage had been lodged in the tops of the mangroves showing that they had been submerged with much force.

The greatest collective loss of life in the 1906 storm was caused by the sinking of a vessel loaded with workmen bound for the construction camps on the Keys. This was due in a large measure, if not entirely, to the stubborn unconcern of the captain, who sailed out of Biscayne Bay in the face of hurricane signals. In those days storm warnings were displayed on a tower near the Fair Building at the foot of Flagler Street, from which vantage they were readily seen by shipmasters and others engaged in shipping on the Bay. Some of the experiences of those early weather men, stationed at various points along the lower coast, were dramatic, even tragic, but it has fallen to the lot of few in the service to pass through such a weird night as that endured by Mr. Gray and his associates on September 17-18, 1926.

Mr. Gray remained at his post all night, and when the lights failed he had a most difficult task in watching and adjusting the delicate instruments in order to preserve a record of the storm. This he describes in his official report, which was transmitted to the Chief of the Weather Bureau under date of October 1, 1926.

The period of the storm from its origin in West Indian waters until it spent itself over the Texas plains, was September 14-20, seven



days, centering over Miami during the early morning of September 18.

Mr. Gray describes it as "probably the most destructive storm in the history of the United States, in so far as property loss is concerned, and the depression of the barometer at Miami was the greatest ever recorded in any storm in the United States."

The importance of the barometer long has been recognized by seamen but it is possible that many landsmen still do not appreciate its invaluable service in forecasting the approach and proximity of storms. Even the amateur yachtsman knows better than to venture into open water when the mercury in his barometer is depressed. During the recent hurricane the oscillations of the mercury were so great that Mr. Gray found it almost impossible to adjust the vernier, which is an attachment by which infinitesimal readings are recorded. Here it may be interesting to indicate the difference between the mercurial and the aneroid barometer, because of references which appear in the official account, and for the further reason that interest in the significance of the barometer is increased because the pressure was lower in this storm than ever before has been recorded by the Weather Bureau in the United States.

The mercurial barometer was invented by Torricelli in Florence, 1643. It consists of a straight glass tube hermetically sealed at one end, filled with mercury and set in a small basin of the same fluid, the column of mercury having equal weight with the mean pressure of the atmosphere on an area equal to the base of the column. Fluctuations are indicated by inches and decimals; for smaller divisions a vernier is used. The aneroid barometer, a cylindrical affair, is the invention of a Frenchman, M. Vidi, and records atmospheric pressure by a finely fashioned mechanical combination which traces variations upon a chart known as a barograph. The width of the chart ordinarily is sufficient for the inked needle to trace its record across the sheet, zig-zagging up and down as fluctuations are received by the highly sensitized cylinders, and simultaneously transmitted to the needle, but during the early morning of September 18 the needle dipped as far down as it could go and then went clear off the sheet. Not only was it the lowest pressure ever recorded by any barometer in the United States, but it was so much lower than the previous lowest record that Mr. Gray, recognizing its significance, got such a hair raising thrill as seldom comes to any man, for he knew that the storm which was hurling roofs and smashing buildings outside was



the fiercest and most intense that ever had visited these shores.

The weather observer was sitting in front of the barometer when the needle was seized with its conniptions, and his first concern was to get it back upon the chart, so that not a moment's scientific import of this catastrophic disturbance should be lost. This was managed shortly, though not without considerable inconvenience, for the lights were out and to adjust a hair spring instrument under such circumstances, working desperately against time, was far from an easy task. This was but one of the trying occurrences that transpired in the Weather Bureau office at Miami while the storm wrought its devastating furies outside.

Earlier in the night, when Mr. Gray received information that the hurricane was near and went to hoist signals, the force of the wind took him off his feet and let him down not too gently. He does not mention this in his report, but loyally gives credit to his assistant for courageous work in retrieving the top of the raingage that blew off in the midst of the storm, though the incident is not mentioned as heroic. It is proper that such matters be preserved in their true aspect, for there is no question among those who passed through the storm that any one risked his life who ventured out while missiles and heavy objects of many kinds were hurtling through the air with irresistible force.

Mr. Gray does well to call attention to the fact that most of those who perished, met their fate when they went out during the lull between 6 and 7 o'clock Saturday morning. Those who did this evidently were unacquainted with the action of hurricanes, which move in whirlwind form, blowing from one quarter with great force and shifting to another, sometimes the opposite direction. A lull comes while the wind is changing, and the uninformed gain the impression that the storm is over. Saturday morning the streets were filled with people curious to view the wreckage, but when the wind shifted it was more furious than before and did greater damage.

The official account is reproduced in the succeeding pages not only for its value as a true and carefully prepared record, but because it is a document throbbing with human interest. With the omission of superscription, date and signature, which for present purposes are superfluous, it follows:

The hurricane of September 14-20, which passed over Miami during the early morning of the eighteenth, was probably the most destructive storm in the history of the United States, in so far as



property loss is concerned. The depression of the barometer at Miami was the greatest ever recorded in any storm in the United States.

The first information concerning the storm was received from the Central Office at 11:30 a. m. of the 14th. No vessels bound for the Bahamas left Miami after that date. Advisory messages relative to the intensity and progress of the storm were received at regular intervals from the 15th to the 17th inclusive, and these advices were given such wide distribution that it can be safely said that the entire population of the lower east coast of Florida were informed of the approach of the storm.

Northeast storm warnings were displayed, by order of the Central Office, at noon of the 17th. The afternoon newspapers published the warning, and it was otherwise disseminated by telephone and telegraph. From the early afternoon of the 17th until the wires were blown down, telephone calls at the Weather Bureau office were answered at the rate of two to three per minute. In addition to the telephone service from the Weather Bureau, the Miami Daily News kept a special telephone operator on duty to give information to those who did not succeed in getting telephone connection with the Weather Bureau. A representative of the News remained at the Weather Bureau office throughout the night of the 17th-18th and kept his paper informed of all available information until telephone connection was severed.

The message ordering hurricane warnings at 11 p. m. of the 17th was received at 11:16 p. m. The warning was displayed from the roof of the Federal Building at 11:25 p. m., and from the storm-warning tower at the City Docks, one and one-half miles from the Weather Bureau office, at midnight. Before leaving for the storm-warning tower, I gave the hurricane warning to the long distance telephone operator, who repeated it to the telephone exchanges at Homestead, Dania, Hollywood, and Fort Lauderdale. The warning was also telephoned to the chief dispatcher of the Florida East Coast Railroad, and several efforts were made to get telephone connection with Fowey Rock Lighthouse and the Coast Guard base at Fort Lauderdale. Telephone communication had not been interrupted, but the operator reported that repeated calls failed to get any response from Fowey Rock or the Coast Guard station.

Shortly after 10 p. m., I began to give out the information that the rapid fall of the barometer and the direction and increasing velocity of the wind indicated that the storm was rapidly approaching this coast, and that, unless it recurved to the east of Miami, winds



of hurricane force might be expected. This information continued to be given by telephone until the receipt of the hurricane warning at 11:16 p. m. After that time, all persons calling by telephone or in person were informed of the display of hurricane warnings. Telephone communication with Hollywood and Miami Beach was severed between 1 a. m. and 2 a. m. and in Miami, between 2 a. m. and 3 a. m.

The hurricane came with great suddenness. Except for a moderate but steady fall of the barometer after 10 a. m. of the 17th, there were no unusual meteorological conditions to herald the approach of the storm. The wind velocity as late as 8 a. m. of the 17th was only 19 miles per hour, and the usual heavy rain that precedes a tropical storm did not set in until after midnight, by which time the wind was blowing a fresh gale. At 10 p. m. of the 17th, the barometer began to fall rapidly, and by midnight it had fallen .11 inch. From midnight to 6:45 a. m., at which time the center of the storm passed over Miami, there was a precipitate fall at the rate of .28 inch per hour. Frequent readings of the mercurial barometer were made throughout the night to check the barograph trace. After 3 a. m., the oscillation of the mercury column in the barometer was as great as .10 inch, making it difficult to properly adjust the vernier. Shortly after 5:30 a. m., it was seen that the barograph pen would fall below the limits of the instrument, and I sat in front of the barograph and waited until the pen reached 28 inches, when it was raised .5 inch. The readjustment of the pen was made as quickly and accurately as was possible under the circumstances. The office was in total darkness, and the readjustment had to be made with the use of a flashlight. The correction to the barograph trace up to the time the pen was readjusted was .01 inch. The correction after readjustment and up to 8 a. m. was .05 inch, as determined by several readings of the mercurial barometer. From about 5:30 a. m. to 6:10 a. m., the barometer fell .40 inch and then remained stationary for 15 or 20 minutes. This was at the beginning of the lull in the wind that attended the arrival of the center of the storm. After the short stationary period, there was another rapid fall of .06 inch, and at 6:45 a. m., a reading of the mercurial barometer showed a pressure of 27.61 inches. The barograph pen fell to 27.54 inches. The master of the steamship Crudeoil, one of the few vessels that rode out the storm in Biscayne Bay, had his aneroid barometer adjusted at this office the day preceding the storm. His instrument recorded 27.59 inches. This reading requires a correction of .01 inch to reduce it to sea level, so that the corrected reading is 27.60 inches. After the passage of



the center of the storm, the barometer rose even more rapidly than it had fallen, and by noon it had reached 29.30 inches.

The center of the storm passed over the central and southern parts of Miami. Over the extreme northern part of the city and over the northern part of Miami Beach, the wind shifted from northeast to south, but there was no pronounced lull. At the Weather Bureau Office the wind fell to 10 miles per hour at 6:30. At the same time, the velocity at the Allison hospital, in the northern part of Miami Beach, was 80 miles per hour. Ten minutes before, the velocity had been 108 miles.

It will be necessary to describe the exposure of the anemometer at the Weather Bureau Office, in order that the low wind velocities recorded may be understood. The anemometer is located on the 3-story Federal Building, and is almost completely surrounded by buildings of 8 to 18 stories. One 15-story building is only 100 feet east-northeast of the anemometer. Another 17-story building is about 250 feet due east. The average velocity of northeast winds prior to the erection of these buildings was 1.44 times the average velocity of northeast winds from January to August, 1926. Since the completion of the walls of the 15-story building, within the last two months, there has been a still further reduction in the velocity of northeast winds. The multiple 1.4, however, had been used in correcting the velocities recorded during the first phase of the storm, when the wind was northeast.

The wind increased steadily from the northeast after 10 p. m. At 1:50 a. m., the anemometer recorded a velocity of 41 miles, indicating a true velocity of about 57 miles per hour. Telephone communication with Miami Beach ceased shortly before this time. By 2:35 a. m., the true velocity had increased to 60 miles per hour, and by 3 a. m., telephone service in Miami had ended. There was a steady increase in wind velocity from that time to 5 a. m. when the anemometer recorded a maximum velocity of 80 miles, indicating a true velocity of at least 115 miles per hour. The top of the rain-gage blew off at 3:42 a. m., and was recovered and replaced by Mr. C. S. Moseley, Jr., the assistant at this station. It was again blown off a few minutes later and lost. A part of it was found the next day on the roof of a nearby building. The electric light wires were blown down at 4 a. m., and observations during the remainder of the night were made with a flashlight, supplied by one of the visitors that spent the night in the Weather Bureau Office. Frequent flashes from fallen wires added to the fearful aspect of the elements. The instru-



ment shelter blew away between 4 a. m. and 5. a. m., landing in the street below and crashing into the automobile of Mr. Arthur Peavy, a Miami Daily News staff writer, who was on duty at the Weather Bureau Office. There was an abrupt decrease in the wind velocity between 6:10 a. m. and 6:15 a. m. when the center of the storm reached Miami. Many persons who had spent the night in downtown buildings rushed out to view the wreckage that filled the streets. I warned those in the vicinity of the Federal Building that the storm was not over and that it would be dangerous to remain in the open. The lull lasted 35 minutes, and during that time the streets became crowded with people. As a result, many lives were lost during the second phase of the storm. With the passage of the center of the storm, the wind shifted to southeast at 6.47 a. m. and immediately increased to gale force. A velocity of 50 miles was recorded at 7:55 a. m. and a velocity of 60 miles at 8:55 a. m. These recorded velocities are nearly 50 per cent less than the actual velocities. The wind shifted to southwest at 9 a. m. and continued from that direction until 6 a. m., with steadily diminishing force.

A Robertson anemometer on the roof of the Allison hospital, Miami Beach, connected with a Weather Bureau type triple register, made by Julien P. Friez & Son, recorded a velocity of 128 miles per hour at 7:30. The anemometer blew away at 8:12 a. m., at which time it was recording 120 miles per hour. The sheet containing the record will be forwarded to the Central Office.

The storm tide on the Miami side of Biscayne Bay was approximately eight feet, and reports indicate a similar tide at Miami Beach. The water front of Miami was flooded for two to three blocks back from the bay, and low parts of the city near the Miami River were also flooded. After the storm, the entire bay front section of Miami was strewn with boats ranging in size from small pleasure craft to large schooners. Some of the boats had been carried more than two blocks from the bay. Water rose in hotels and residences near the bay to a depth of three to five feet. Miami Beach was entirely inundated, and at the height of the tide, the ocean extended to Miami, three and one-half miles across Biscayne Bay. All streets near the ocean at Miami Beach were covered with sand to a depth of several feet, and in some places automobiles were entirely covered. The foundations of some buildings were washed out, allowing the buildings to collapse. The storm tide occurred with the shift of the wind to the east and southeast, following the arrival of the center of the storm. In the Miami River the tide came in the form of a bore that left a

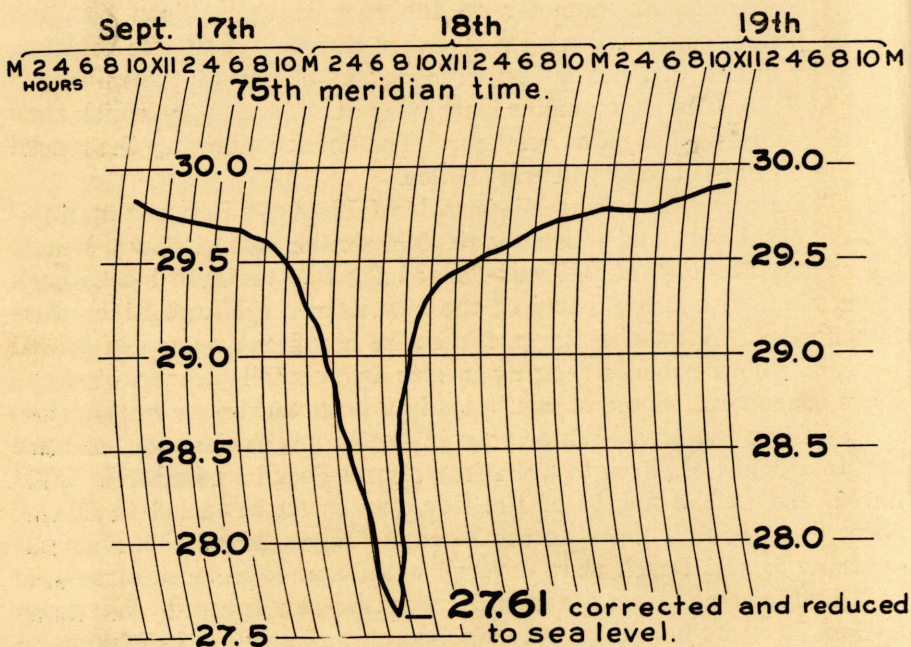


mass of wreckage from the boats that had sought safe anchorage.

The intensity of the storm and the wreckage that it left cannot be adequately described. The continuous roar of the wind; the crash of falling buildings, flying debris, and plate glass; the shriek of fire apparatus and ambulances that rendered assistance until the streets became impassable; the terrifically driven rain that came in sheets as dense as fog; the electric flashes from live wires have left the memory of a fearful night in the minds of the many thousands that were in the storm area.

The loss of life in the Miami district was 114. (After this report was written the number of dead from the storm was increased by one, making the total 115.) Many more are missing. Several thousand persons were injured, and 25,000 were without shelter after the storm.

The property loss in the greater Miami area has been estimated at \$76,000,000. This does not include damage to house, office, and store furnishings. Approximately 4,725 homes were destroyed and 9,100 damages in the area extending from Fort Lauderdale to Miami.



Barograph trace at Miami during hurricane of September 18, 1926, reproduced from original trace. In the original record, the trace is broken, as it was necessary to raise the barograph 0.5 inch when it reached 28 inches, which is the limit of the barograph sheet. The reproduced trace has been made continuous, to better show the remarkable fall of the barometer.





THIS WAS A GARAGE---CAN YOU SEE THE AUTOMOBILES BENEATH THE WRECKAGE?



## *Humanizing Effects of the Hurricane*

SUCH disasters as the hurricane always bring to the surface the very best in mankind, and I wonder if this manifestation of universal brotherhood is not a part of the divine order.

I had lived in the northwest section of Miami, at Sixth Avenue and 43rd Street, since April and had not become acquainted with my neighbors until the hurricane huddled us together.

When I awoke at dawn of Friday, September 17, 1926, it was with a feeling akin to suffocation. Great beads of perspiration had exuded upon my brow and I felt a clammy sickness. I went into the kitchen to brew my morning coffee. Soon appeared Catherine Kelly, our faithful housekeeper, who had come to us from Chicago two years ago.

"Catherine," said I, "have you ever seen a hurricane?"

She replied in the negative.

"Then you are soon to see one, for this certainly is hurricane weather," said I.

My words were prophetic, though at the time I had no sense of divination. My body was my barometer. All during the day I suffered physical and mental depression. In the afternoon the newspapers carried storm warnings, and unusually early the streets were crowded with motor cars scurrying homeward.

One of my office associates had offered to take me home Thursday afternoon and as we rode toward the bay on Northeast Second street I invoked his attention to the unusual beauty of the sky and landscape—the olive green of the trees and foliage outlined against the boiling gold of the firmament, with the sullen grey and green of the bayshore and waters between. There was a tense quiet over everything; not a leaf stirred and all sounds seemed strangely near. These things, I had learned, are omens of a hurricane.

Upon my arrival at home Friday afternoon I informed my wife of the impending storm and at once she suggested that we move the children's beds in from the back sleeping porch. I opposed the idea because it seemed needless to take such a precaution until the evidence of its necessity became more urgently apparent; nevertheless when bedtime came we put two of the children, who usually slept on the porch, in my wife's bed and I took the third in bed with me on



the front porch. The other children (there are six) usually slept in the body of the house.

Soon after we retired a fresh wind blew up and relieved the humidity of the day, but it was only pleasant and did not become alarming in bluster or velocity until the early morning. I did not know just what time that was, but as the rain began to blow in through the screen, I moved my bed from the porch into the living room, and turned on the light to guide me to the back room to see how the children were faring. The windows were open, but at that time the rain had not begun to beat through, and I returned to the living room and went back to bed. It was not to sleep, however. The wind and the rain increased in intensity and in a short time I got up again. By this time the wind was whipping the awnings in a lively fashion and their metal frames were creaking and shrieking in a most alarming medley, which made sleep quite impossible. Again I punched on the light, but had hardly done so when the bulbs faded out in a dull red glow, denoting that the current had failed.

My wife appeared and asked if I had any matches, and told me I would find candles in the kitchen cabinet.

Matches! With all my premonition of the storm I had not thought of matches. But if I am improvident my nature I may lay reasonable claim to a fairly good memory. I remembered that I had seen a packet containing three paper stemmed matches on a chiffonier. I groped in the dense darkness and found them. Yes, there were but three, and there had been several days of humid weather. What if the matches would not ignite? Fortunately the first match was successful, and then I misplaced the others and did not find them until after the storm.

After making a light I distinguished here and there through the night and blinding rain dim splotches of light which indicated that my neighbors had provided themselves with the primitive candle, with which our forefathers were familiar. Despite the progress of the age it seems inevitable that we must resort in emergency to primitive conveniences. Just across the street such a flicker was discernible, and I knew that Harry Goldstein, my friend of many years, was keeping a lonely vigil against the storm, for Harry is a bachelor and lives alone in a garage apartment which he had built only a few months ago. His domicile was a sad wreck, but he escaped unhurt, and he told me the next day that he had expected every minute to feel the house give way. I told him I thought of him during the night, and would have asked him to share our anxiety if this had



been possible. He said he would have deserted his quarters had he dared go out. This fairly stated the predicament of all. They were frightened where they were but feared to venture out.

It is wonderful what a difference the light of day makes in one's feeling of security. It is improbable that any one slept through that horrific night, except children. Our Bobby slept, though drenched. Everybody waited for the dawn, and when it came there came with it a feeling of relief, though the most severe part of the hurricane was after 7 o'clock Saturday morning. It was like parts I and II of a grand opera program. Wagner probably gained some of his inspirations from a hurricane. Surely there was weird music in the rhythm of the storm. It was grand opera of the grandest and most awful character. At the height of its fury I played the Victrola to keep the children quiescent, but the instrument could hardly be heard above the din of the wind. Bobby prompted me when at the conclusion of a record I failed to change it. The child was more composed than I.

Going back into the back room shortly after my first visit, I found it leaking like a sieve. The water was pouring in upon the floor and beds. I woke Felix, our eldest child, who was sleeping soundly, and got him up, and rescued the two little girls, Mary and Jeanne. The water was streaming in upon them, and I took both in my arms into the living room. My wife had moved Baby Elise in her basket into the northwest corner of the living room and Catherine had come in from her room, bringing our third son, Millard, with her. Here, between the fireplace and an old-fashioned davenport, the little flock hovered as the wind charged and roared and made the night hideous.

Our house is of concrete and stucco construction, having been built by a North Carolina physician as a winter home for his family. I found comfort in this reflection, for the storm was developing such fury that I began to realize it would be fatal to the cheap and carelessly constructed houses that had gone up during the boom period. Later, when the wind shifted and the house began to quiver and the ceiling to undulate in billows as a bedspread does when shaken by an energetic housekeeper, I realized that even the strongest construction was being subjected to a severe test. In the meantime dawn had broken and I attempted to open the kitchen door upon the back porch to reach the refrigerator. The children were fretting from hunger. Several times I threw my whole weight and strength against the door but could not budge it, so strong was the force of the gale against it. Eventually there was a lull and I got the door open, but wreckage blocked the passage from the kitchen to ice box. The entire screen



siding, with awnings attached, had blown across the children's beds, which also had been displaced along with two chiffoniers in which the children's clothing was kept. The whole house was flooded and everybody was wet to the skin. Rugs, bedclothing, furniture and everything else was in wet ruin. But just then a bottle of milk in the refrigerator seemed about the most important thing in the world. At last I surmounted the ruins and retrieved the milk. This stayed the hunger of the little ones for awhile, for all except Millard, who indignantly refused it because it was cold—he is accustomed to taking his warm, but as the electric current was off, and we were dependent on it for cooking, it was impossible to cater to the young gentleman's wishes.

The lull was of brief duration. I had begun to think of trying to get out, when my wife reminded me that this was a hurricane, and so far the wind had been blowing from the northeast only and was due to change shortly. She had hardly spoken before the shift was apparent and the real bombardment began. The battering started about seven o'clock and continued with unabated fury for several hours. It was shortly after eleven, when all of us were huddled together in Catherine's room, having left the living room for fear it would crush in, that I heard a thunderous hammering upon the kitchen door, accompanied by W. E. Sutherland's sonorous voice:

"Hey, there! Can I do anything to help you?"

I opened the door. There stood Sutherland in his bathing suit, water dripping from his grey hair and bronzed face, but his eyes gleaming with courage and kindness. One by one, smothered in bathrobes and other protective coverings, the children were taken to his home, which had escaped with minor damages, and our own water-logged ark was forsaken.

Not only did my good neighbor take in my forlorn brood, but he and his excellent wife provided shelter and culinary accommodations for several other families. They had an oil stove and the lack of electricity was no inconvenience to them in this respect. My children became their especial charge and care. For ten mortal days and nights they humored their whims and not only that, they displayed the greatest diplomacy and tact in their unaccustomed dealings with them. This proves the truth of my assertion at the outset, that disaster and misfortune make the whole world kin!

So there you are! What a difference a hurricane makes. Now I know my neighbors. I know the honest quality of their minds and



hearts. I know they are true, blue and may be depended upon in time of stress and trouble.

I should not have related this personal experience if it were not typical of many that occurred in Miami and throughout the storm stricken area during and after the disaster, which stripped many and left them without a penny or the wherewithal to get a meal or pay for a lodging.

To moralize is cheap, but there can be no question that unforeseen disaster, such as that which visited the Miami region brings one down to first principles. I think of Shakespeare's "blessed are the uses of adversity" in this connection, and shortly after the storm I was in the office of Burdine's Department Store and saw tacked upon the wall this legend:

#### ADVERSITY

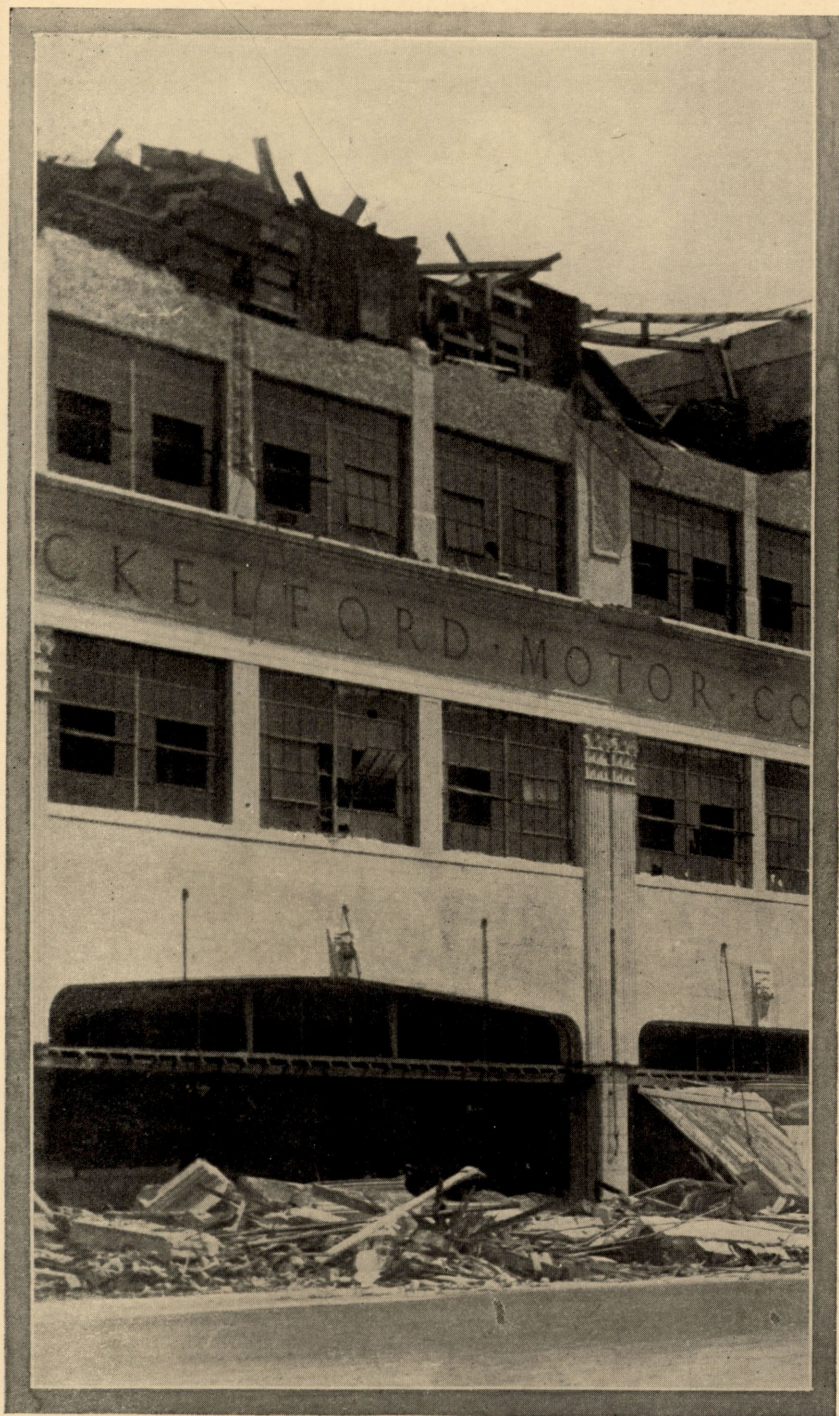
Is not the worst thing in life;  
Adversity is the turn in the road;  
It is not the end of the trail unless—  
UNLESS you give up!

Burdine's was a heavy loser, but the spirit of encouragement carried to many by this motto is characteristic of the very fine young man, Roddy Burdine, who is president of the Miami Rotary Club as well as head of this great business house.



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF MOORE HAVEN AFTER THE STORM.





THE HURRICANE TOOK THE ENTIRE TOP STORY OFF OF THE SHACKELFORD  
COMPANY PLANT AT BUENA VISTA.

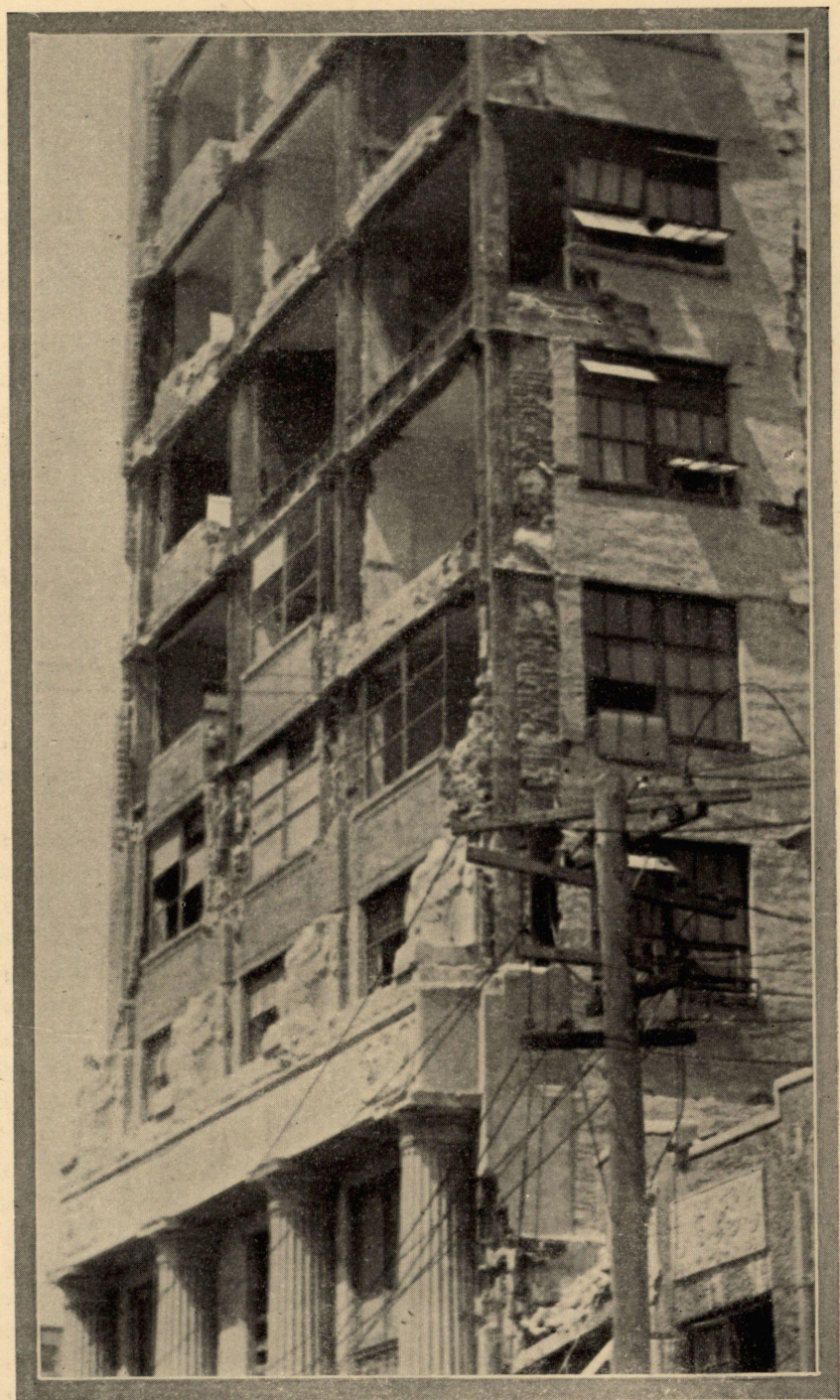


## *A View of the Storm-Swept District*

THE exact hour we were rescued I do not know, but it was about 12 o'clock noon Saturday, and I brought coffee from our kitchen and eggs and other food, and soon the famished children and adults were fed. I had a great thirst and drank three cups of Mrs. Sutherland's excellent (dripped) coffee, but I could not eat. Fear or anxiety, whatever it was, had effectually checked hunger, and I had eaten nothing for twenty-four hours. While we were having coffee, the occupants of two other houses that had been wrecked came in. One was a former Rabbi who was sorely undone over his loss, but refused to break his fast, and though I was in the same boat physically, I marveled at the man's resolution, for I had no desire to eat and it was easy to see that he had. It was here that we heard of many narrow escapes, but as there were no fatalities in our immediate neighborhood it was some hours before the news of these began to come in.

At the first opportunity I walked all the way to town from Forty-third Street, N. W., and viewed the wreck and ruin present on every hand. There seemed to be few exceptions to the rule of destruction until I reached the older part of the downtown section which had been built some fifteen or twenty years before. When first I came to Miami (in 1909) I was struck and impressed with the generally low structure of houses, and inquired the reason, for I found many living in such who could afford more pretentious domiciles. I received the reply, (which seemed sufficient) that diminutive structures were favored because of hurricanes. Now, it was interesting to notice how many of these old time structures had passed through the storm unharmed when demolition was somewhat general. This was not true absolutely throughout the city, for nothing would have been left had it been so, but a citation of the damages in my own neighborhood is sufficient to demonstrate how general was the destruction. Our own house was unroofed, and the entrance was blocked by a pile of concrete blocks and coping that had been blown off. The awnings which had hung above the windows had been whipped into shreds and the metal frames upon which they were stretched had been broken and twisted beyond repair. The screening had been broken in and beaten full of holes, and the plastering had been rended into seams and seemed imminently likely to fall. Mr. Sutherland's





CLOSE-UP OF MEYER-KISER BANK BUILDING, WHICH IS BEING RECONSTRUCTED.  
INSURANCE WAS \$900,000. THE REPORTED FIRST COST OF THE  
BUILDING WAS \$3,000,000.



front porch screens were wrecked, but only recently his roof had been tarred and this, with its protected position saved his property. Some rather prided themselves upon the superior construction that exempted them, whereas, it was due in many cases to protected position, though this cannot be set down as invariable. It was so in the case of our own garage, which stood between our home and Mr. Sutherland's, for while the roof was taken off and several concrete blocks were dislodged it was otherwise unharmed, and the garage of our neighbor, down the street, that had no protection, was a complete and hopeless wreck.

My first trip to the down town section was quite the reverse of a triumphal entry. I had only recently undergone a surgical operation and my locomotion was considerably impeded by the pain which I still felt. This of itself was enough to discourage one but when I viewed the wreckage on every side my heart sank, and I wondered at the hardihood of those energetic and strong hearted persons whom I saw clearing away the debris and making the way for a new start in life. This was particularly sad when I reflected that some thus engaged were fully sixty years of age, and more. Yet, it gave me courage, for I lack much yet of being of that age, and though I felt depressed I could not fail to draw a lesson in optimism from those who were going ahead so bravely to recoup their fortunes.

As I passed through Buena Vista it was sorrowful to see the damage that had been done there. Moore's handsome furniture store had been badly dealt with, the entire top story had been taken off of Shackelford's garage, the Biltmore theatre was in ruins and among the most ghastly wrecks was the home of our dear friend, Mrs. Sarah R. W. Palmer. I was to learn later that their escape from personal injury had been miraculous. But such instances were too numerous to recount. One illustration is sufficient to show how near to death many were and yet escaped. In the home of one of my neighbors, R. D. Stephens, two concrete blocks fell through the roof upon a bed, where lay Mr. and Mrs. Alex Helgren and their two-year-old daughter, Dorothy; a block rested at the head and one at the feet of the child with not enough space between blocks and child to place one's hand, and yet not one of the occupants was hurt, not even scratched.

Down town I met Morris Singleton, son of the poet, Stephen Cochran Singleton, who told me that his brother, Bert, and wife were out in a launch somewhere among the Keys, and he was starting a search for them. Morris visibly was worried, which was natural, for we knew no one could have weathered the storm in a launch. It turned





IMAGINE THE WORK AND COST OF RECONSTRUCTING LIGHT AND POWER SYSTEMS FROM SUCH CONDITIONS.



out, however, that Bert had a barometer with him and knew how to read it, and when he saw the mercury dropping he had the prudence to seek shelter. He and his party were saved at Cocolobo Cay, but their parents spent an anxious night and day while waiting for news of them.

I had it in mind to send telegrams to our relatives, whom I knew would be uneasy concerning our welfare, but upon arriving at the telegraph offices I received information that all wires were down. The Postal offices were closed, and the Western Union was accepting messages to be sent whenever service was resumed. I declined to file any message and went to my office, and wrote a letter to my mother, which reached her about as quickly as a telegram would have under the circumstances.

I didn't expect to find much left at the office, but in this I was agreeably surprised. I found that papers had been blown about and books had been water-soaked, and the furniture had been considerably damaged, also the plate glass panels had been broken, but otherwise the rooms were in fairly good condition. When I looked over the down town district and observed the damage to some of the best buildings it seemed to me that our own offices had escaped in a most remarkable manner.

The Meyer-Kiser building, 18 stories high, was probably the most notable wreck. On the side facing the bay, from which the most powerful wind attacks had come, the building was laid open in many places, the outer walls entirely gone, and the inside bared. The upper stories had the appearance of careening, and this seemed to be more accentuated as the days passed, and city authorities condemned it. The entire block between First and Second Avenues on Northeast First Street was roped off and for many days no one was permitted to enter the danger zone. The Roosevelt Hotel, being built at the corner of Fourteenth Street and Northeast Second Avenue, was another sky scraper to suffer great damage. It was rumored that this structure had been condemned prior to the hurricane, but whether this is true or not does not appear to be of any great moment at this time, because clearly it was condemnable after the hurricane. The walls were crushed in, the windows broken, the scaffolding badly damaged and in numerous other particulars it presented a dilapidated appearance.

It did not seem, as I walked down Flagler Street, that a solid plate glass window had been left in the town. I thought of those fellows who sell plate glass and tornado insurance and wondered how





VIEW OF THE MIAMI RIVER AFTER THE STORM---CLEARING THE STREAM WAS A GARGANTUAN TASK.



many owners had been wise enough to protect themselves. Figures which have been published later reveal the percentage to have been comparatively small.

As I passed through the business district I was impressed with the destructive force of the storm as never before, because here were solid walls of masonry buttressed against each other, which had not withstood the ravages of wind and rain. Nearly every store front had been crushed in and the stocks ruined or damaged. The electric sign on the First National Bank Building had been twisted out of shape, as if it had been a toy, and the great electric signs of the Olympia theatre and the Cromer & Cassel department store had been torn off and demolished. The wisdom of permitting the erection of such signs is seriously questioned. In times of such stress and suffering it seems quite needless, if not absurd, that human life should be endangered by such ornate appendages.

Soon after reaching the down town section I met Floyd Williams and his brother, Orris. They were looking for a place where they might get coffee. I had been so absorbed in my sight seeing that I had not been conscious of hunger and when the Williams brothers suggested coffee it occurred to me that there was hardly a place where it might be had. Drinking water was hard to get and consequently few places were serving coffee. Neither was there water for flushing toilets. These inconveniences existed for several days, due to crippled electric power plant and lines.

Upon the whole, however, I was surprised at the strength with which the down town section had stood up. The McAllister, the Alcazar, the Everglades and other large hotels on the Bayfront were intact with the exception of crushed in windows and other minor damages. I noticed that the weather vanes on the Everglades and Daily News towers were bent in the direction of the northwest, which was the case with every pine and palmetto tree and with every other stalk and bit of living foliage which had spine enough left to bend in any direction whatever. Bay Front park was a sight. At least a dozen barges and large vessels had been cast up by the waters and were stranded hundreds of yards from the bay.

I was surprised at the excellent manner in which the arcade shops passed through the storm. Those near the street entrances were rather badly damaged, but those inside were not hurt to any extent and their stocks apparently were not damaged.

I could not fail to observe that the Roman Catholic Church and the school building immediately to the east of it were unharmed.



Either this shows that the Catholics are in high favor with the fates or they know how to choose their contractors. It is in order to remark also that Frank T. Budge's hardware store, which has stood the storms of many summers, also was solid as a rock. Indeed, there were many of the larger buildings that suffered little damage. Burdine's department store, which seemed intact from the north, was battered in from the south and many days following the storm there were sales of damaged goods at cheap prices. This was common all over town.

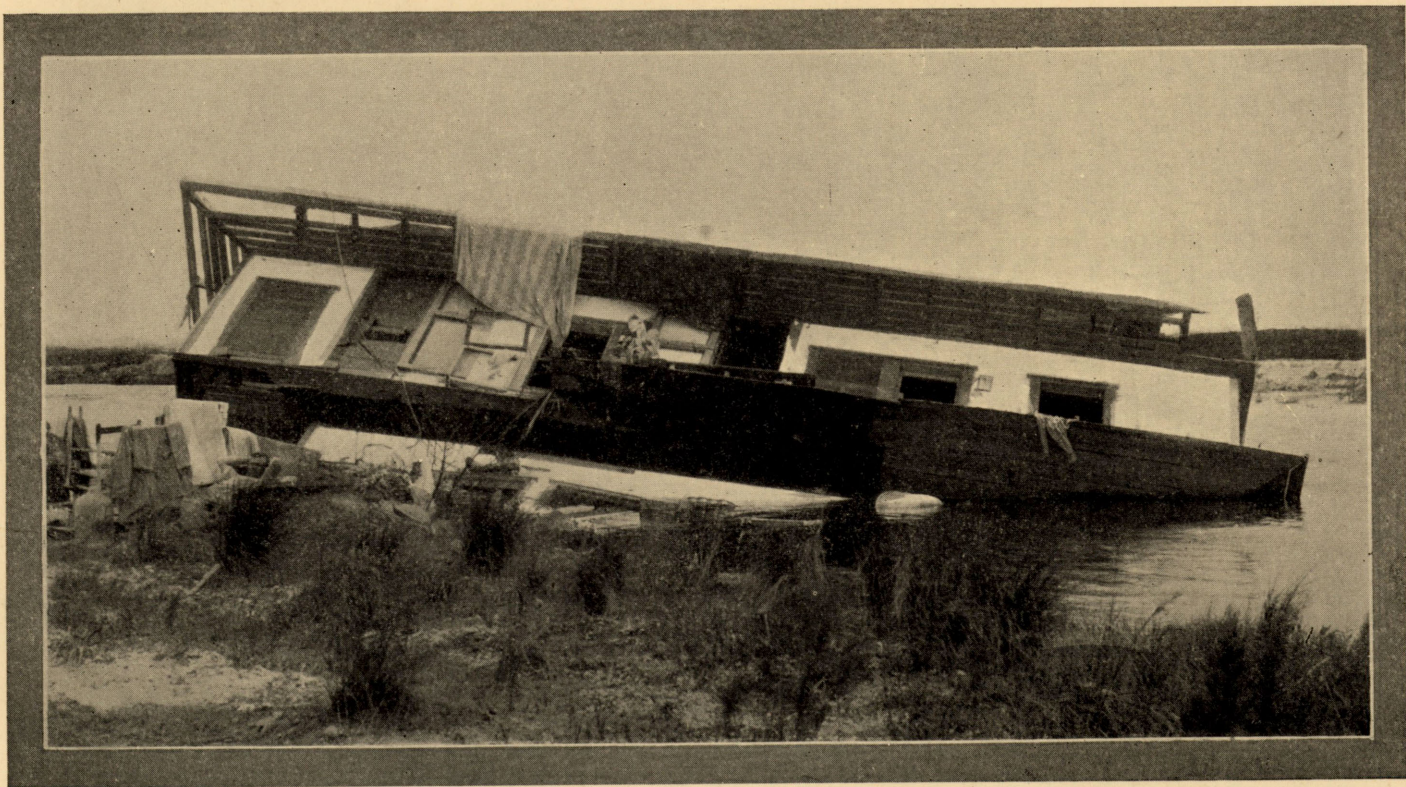
By little and little information concerning the damage at Coral Gables, Hialeah, Hollywood, Dania, Fort Lauderdale, Pompano and West Palm Beach floated in. Hollywood and Fort Lauderdale, with Dania in between, seemed to have felt the full force of the storm, though the Weather Bureau officially located its center over Miami. It would be difficult to imagine more frightful scenes of wreckage than those in the Hollywood-Fort Lauderdale area. Hollywood, seventeen miles north of Miami, had sprung into being like magic under the genius of Joseph W. Young, but it was mowed down like grass before a scythe, and so was Fort Lauderdale. In all of the subdivisions that had been sold and settled during the boom period, Coral Gables seemed to have been the least damaged. The total loss there was estimated at \$1,500,000, consisting largely of the injury to ornamental trees and foliage plants.

West Palm Beach was north of the storm track, but there was considerable loss in the breakage of glass and also to the Ocean Boulevard, but the damage there was reported less than had occurred in the July storm.



TOURIST CAMPS WERE RAZED LIKE THIS.





AN OVERTURNED HOUSEBOAT, BUT THE OCCUPANTS ARE CAMPING ABOUT.



## *The Causeway Tragedy*

I SHALL never forget the date of the opening of the Collins bridge to Miami Beach, for that was my wedding day; it was June 12, 1913. The Collins' bridge was a wooden structure, and about two years ago was replaced by the Venetian Way. It spanned the distance three miles across Biscayne Bay from Miami to Miami Beach, and its completion really marked the beginning of development at the Beach. Carl Fisher generally is credited with being the pioneer at Miami Beach, but others were well in advance of him. The first genuine pledge of faith in that district was made by J. J. Collins when he built the bridge across the bay which cost about a quarter of a million dollars. It was a toll bridge and paid for itself in a few years, the annual tolls being about \$40,000. Later the County Causeway was constructed. It was built of steel, concrete and asphalt, and was free to the use of the public. The causeway had been in use some ten years at the time of the storm. It cost a million dollars, and about a year ago a bond issue was voted to widen the bridges and otherwise increase the structure's capacity. At nearly all times of the day and night this thoroughfare was crowded. It was three miles long and during the hours of the heaviest traffic there were several hundred cars upon it. How many cars were stranded on this structure the night of the storm must be listed among things that are not known. The probability is there were many—maybe fifty, a hundred, two hundred and the number of passengers several hundred. The causeway was submerged by the storm and those motor cars that were drowned out on the structure undoubtedly were blown away and their occupants lost. This constitutes one of the uncertain factors of the Great Hurricane. It is possible that whole families were lost, for it was a custom for family parties to visit the beach after the man had returned home at the conclusion of the day's work. The causeway was badly damaged and was closed to traffic until October 9. There were many curious objects of interest left on the causeway by the turbulent waters. It was strange to see steel street car rails bent double. When one conceives that the tempest was strong enough to tear up the tracks and bend the rails as if they were wisps of paper it is to be wondered that any human being exposed to such a gale should survive it.





CABIN CRUISER, A COTTAGE AND A GARAGE STACKED TOGETHER.



## *Freaks of the Storm*

ONE of the most impressive evidences which the wind left as a token of its force was the steel flag pole in front of the fire station at Miami Beach, which was bent into a triangle, and another was the huge dredgeboat of the Meteor Transport Company which was cast up on the County Causeway, crushing a yacht of considerable size as it was beached.

Among those most thrilled by the storm were Mr. and Mrs. Chas. J. Blake, of New York, who were occupying a ground floor apartment at Miami Beach, only a few blocks from the ocean. In the midst of the storm they heard a call for help, which proceeded from a building to the rear of the apartment from a couple who feared that their house was doomed and wished for assistance in removing their children. Mr. Blake felt duty bound to respond, and started out alone, facing the wind and feeling his way to the house, which he found empty. The occupants had been rescued by two men who were in the apartment above the Blakes. They had gone out through the back door, holding hands, as a protection, and had reached the house before Mr. Blake got there. When they returned and Mr. Blake was not with them, Mrs. Blake became frantic and implored them to rescue her husband, whereupon the men returned to the scene of the first rescue, but in the meantime Mr. Blake had made a safe return. Nobody was injured, but for the time being there was plenty of excitement, as there was cause to be, for it was easy enough for one to be lost in the storm when rain was blowing down in sheets and it was impossible to see more than a few feet ahead.

One Miami Beach resident made a ghastly find on his front porch after the storm in the form of a man's dead body which had floated in, probably one of the many who were drowned on dredges and other vessels.

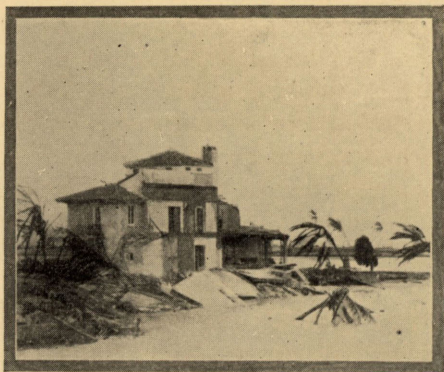
It was a common thing to see a mere shack of frame structure standing undamaged by the side of a concrete house that had been demolished. Queerest of all the many idiosyncrasies of the storm, perhaps, was the sparing of two beach umbrellas that were left standing after practically every building about them had succumbed to the combined furies of wind and water.

Many physicians and nurses from other cities in and out of Florida came to Miami to assist in relief work, and some weeks after



the storm Dr. Hoy, of the White Cross Hospital, Columbus, Ohio, came to examine fractured bones and to help in corrective work, that being his specialty. Dr. Hoy examined over 300 fractures and pronounced the work that had been done by Miami physicians under the circumstances to have been remarkably efficient, but among the odd incidents of his visit was the discovery of an aged man who had a broken neck and was unaware of it. He complained that his neck had been stiff ever since the storm, for which he was unable to account. Dr. Hoy at once insisted on making an examination, and found, much to the man's surprise and consternation, that his neck had been broken. The most singular feature of the incident was that the man could not tell when or in what manner the accident had occurred. Needless to say, remedial measures were taken at once with the likelihood that the man with the broken neck will have had the unusual experience of passing through an ordeal which, under the excitement of the storm, proved to me without pain or very much inconvenience.

Another storm freak, and there are too many to recount, was that attending an old shack on Northwest Fifth street, which had been condemned some time before the storm. It was feared that the ramshackle building would collapse and kill someone. Accordingly the streets were roped off about it to keep pedestrians well out of range until the shack could be razed. But the storm struck before this was done. As we are told in biblical language, the storm raged, the winds blew, the water rose, and everything else took place that seemed possible, but the old shack stood, and after the storm the building that had been condemned had to be taken down by main strength and awkwardness.



HOME OF J. J. COLLINS, MIAMI BEACH.



## *A Thrilling Experience*

THE experience of nearly everyone who passed through the storm might well be said to have been thrilling, but that of Dr. George W. Woollard, who was in charge of the Coral Gables office at Miami Beach, was one of the most exciting which has come to my attention. This office was located opposite the Roney Plaza, overlooking the ocean. It was known as the Salon Maritimo. The cost of interior decorations and fittings of this office was \$155,000. As one might judge from this it was a very handsome office, and contained many rare pieces that had been imported, particularly to give it the Spanish setting which the Coral Gables Corporation affects. There were, for example, some very fine replicas of Spanish galleons, antique imported chairs, deer hide chairs, bronze urns, marble cornucopias, of which there were two at the inner vestibule standing over eight feet high; two huge candelabra from a Spanish medieval cathedral, and seventeen rugs that cost a thousand dollars each. At the main entrance was a bronze statue, in front of which was a sparkling fountain of mosaic-tile with green frogs spouting water, a similar circular fountain adorned the solarium, with Piping Pan spouting water from the lutes. The light effects were carried out by antique wrought lanterns around the ceiling of the promenade, high bronze urns three feet high, with bulbs in center at every column, colored spot lights playing on both fountains and the ceiling of the solarium, which was sky blue, bordered with blue bays, a canal being built up with pecky cypress in tropical colors, hiding row upon row of blue bulbs which threw their rays upon the ceiling. The inner columns were adorned with wrought iron candle sticks. This description, abbreviated as it must be, may be sufficient to give the reader some idea of the manner in which this office was furnished. Dr. Woollard is a veteran of the World War and served many months in the trenches, and he told me he had rather go through his war experience again rather than pass through his hurricane experience if he were forced to face the ordeal of going through one or the other and had his choice. I shall let Dr. Woollard relate his experience in his own words, as follows:

My private office contained two Japanese hand embroidered silk panels, Oriental chairs, bookcases, steel filing cabinets, desks, buffet, besides other furniture. The solarium also contained a new





THE PANCOAST HOTEL AT MIAMI BEACH WAS SOMEWHAT DISFIGURED.



Steinway grand piano, which was totally destroyed. The ironical part of the whole thing for me lay in the fact that I had been fixing up a little two-room apartment in this office and adjoining my private office, and had just completed it and had finished moving in that very afternoon, and had taken all my jewelry, wardrobe and other belongings with me.

I was seated in my private office that eventful Friday night after dinner, reading the paper when the phone rang. One of the vice presidents of the Coral Gables Corporation advised me of the predicted storm. This was about 7:30 o'clock and was just barely dark. I went out and bought a paper, and upon reading it called in my nightwatchman and told him to make sure all doors and windows were securely locked and barred, and went with him to supervise same, then went back to my reading, confident that at the most it would only be about as bad as the flurry we had in July, which although it deposited several inches of sand in the office and wetted the rugs badly did no serious or permanent damage. About 10 o'clock the wind was getting pretty high, and I went out and turned a big twin-six Packard coupe around, backing it against the wind, putting it in reverse and setting the emergency brake as tight as possible. The wind at this time was so strong as to cause the sand to cut into one's face like needles. I then went back to retire, but lay down with my clothes on. I noticed that the ocean was rising rapidly and the water already was coming under the doors. It was only a short time before I noticed the rugs were being lifted and putting my hand down I felt the water to be about twelve inches deep, and decided therefore to change into my bathing suit, throwing my clothes containing upwards of twelve hundred and sixty dollars on the back of a chair. My large ring and wrist watch I took off and locked in my desk drawer. This must have been about midnight. I have no record of time for the next two days. About this time the lights went out, and finding matches I lit a candle which was in one of the wrought iron candelabra. The water was still gradually rising, and in the outer office I could hear huge waves swishing in great torrents, when all of a sudden I heard an awful crash. Opening the door to the outer office I saw that the front doors had given away and huge waves were coming in, carrying out furniture on their return. Foolishly, it seems to me now, I rushed over and tried to close them and hold them. The noise of the water was so great that nothing else could be heard, and it was all I could do to retain an upright position even by holding on to the walls. At this time the remaining windows and doors crashed



in at intervals until all were gone on the ocean side. I was bewildered and did not know which way to turn, I was just about to return to my private office when a great wave came in from two directions, one from the ocean side and the other from Twenty-third street, and a big bundle rolled up at my feet and a light flashed. I helped this bundle scramble to its feet and it turned out to be a policeman, who was on duty at the outside of the Roney Plaza Hotel. He told me that he was trying to make his way along when a huge wave picked him up and deposited him right at my feet. We made our way back to the corner in which was the lounge, the northern window of which was still intact, we sat in arm chairs for awhile, when suddenly this one remaining window crashed, and I could feel the floor trembling. The water rose so high that the chairs on which we were sitting were floating, and I felt the floor quiver, and grabbed the policeman's wrist and bellowed to him to follow me outside. We could see trees going by uprooted, huge coconut palms as well as roofs of houses, I knew not where we were going, but it must have been Divine Providence that directed me to the only room the door of which held, as I rushed through this entrance still leading the policeman. I reached back and pulled the huge pecky cypress door closed behind me to prevent the waves coming in. The policeman now held his torch in his helmet, and as the water was up to our waists we had to climb upon the table, where we sat until it rose so high that we had to stand. Minutes now seemed hours, and although we scarcely spoke a word the knowledge that we were not absolutely alone was some comfort to both of us. As the water rose to a dangerous height he suggested that we had better get out. I asked him how. He suggested the door. I was, by this time, agreeable to try anything once, but on making our way to the door we found the sand and debris had piled up above the catch sash of the windows, to say nothing of the fact that a raging torrent was racing by the windows carrying every thing in its wake, including a huge piano, a relic from the house of the Emperor of Austria, which went floating by on a wave at a terrific rate as though it had been a feather. Escape was cut off.

At this time we saw two huge roofs crash to the ground right outside of our windows. These had acted as wooden awnings for our office and the second floor of the casino above, and were completely demolished. A few moments later we saw the Roman Pools split completely in two, releasing five hundred thousand gallons of water in one deluge, having the same effect as a dam bursting and carrying everything before it. The water rose rapidly, and the most welcome



sight anyone ever saw was dawn. We had been forced to stand on the table and hang on to the chandelier, and from this point the water rose steadily until it was at our chins with our heads touching the ceiling, we could go no higher and I told the policeman that if a lull came for only a few minutes I was going to make a break for it. How, I had no idea, but he protested it would be suicidal, as roofs were going by on the wind, and four were lying in what remained of the Roman Pools, and the debris was still racing by the windows at a terrific rate. I stepped off the table and swam under a door to a small closet adjoining this room, and on coming to the top was overjoyed to see the window there had not become blocked with debris. If I could smash it I could get out and possibly make my escape by getting back into the solarium. I swam back and so reported to him; he could not see it, but finally we agreed that I was to go and that if I should be swept away he was to attempt to recover me. I took his pistol and swimming under, after shaking hands with him, I reached the window sill, and after trying unsuccessfully twice finally smashed the window and then the screen, dropped the revolver and stepped gingerly from the window. I had, however, barely got my right leg and arm through before I was picked up as though I had been nothing and thrown bodily back into the pile of debris and piano. I picked myself up and clinging to the balcony above me made my way hand over hand to the windows of the Salon. The wind was now coming from the south at terrific force making it difficult for me to retain my hold, and finally tearing me loose altogether it hurled me through the windows and up against a marble fountain in the centre of the solarium. I made my way, swimming and crawling, to the mantel piece where I rested. The tide was now receding and the waters in the office also were going with it very fast. Finally I swam and walked where the sand was exceptionally high to the door of the room in which the policeman was still a prisoner. My hand hit something metallic which turned out to be a frying pan with which I gradually dug him out. The wind was still raging so that we could not stand erect. We made our way to the mantel. At noon on Saturday we were rescued and taken out, after having been in the water for over ten hours. I had nothing but a bathing suit on, this even was partly torn off, and for the next four weeks I was forced to live in a borrowed one. The office was stripped bare of all its beautiful furnishings and decorations, even the piano was smashed to pieces and was found a half block from where it formerly stood. Sand in some places in the inner office was over six feet deep, and was nowhere less than two



feet deep. Floors of solid concrete and tile had collapsed entirely and some of them were carried as far as fifty feet away, weighed over five tons. The huge front entrance arch of solid concrete standing forty feet high had fallen completely into the street. The beach which was formerly level with my office was now five feet beneath it. Drinking water was unobtainable, and the first mouthful of food I had was Saturday night when I was given a plate of soup and a biscuit. Everything I had was literally swept away, leaving me nothing in the world but a bathing suit. We are going to rebuild, and carry on as before.

The twin-six Packard mentioned in the first part of this recital was turned upside down and carried a half block away and completely buried in the sand, and was utterly demolished. It will never run again. In passing I might mention that two of my typewriter desks with typewriters intact, except for salt water rust, were found on the middle of the golf course approximately one and a half miles from the office. Pieces of some of our antiques were found several blocks away, and the steel filing cabinets were undoubtedly carried out to sea on the return of the waves. Of everything formerly contained in this office we have salvaged only nine rugs, nothing else has been found, and I expect never will be, as the sand has been entirely sifted and no trace of anything of value has been recovered.

(Author's Note—Besides all his other personal belongings Dr. Woollard lost \$14,000 worth of jewelry which was locked in his desk. Three days following the storm he was engaged in medical relief work before he discovered that six of his ribs had been broken when he was thrown back into his office when attempting to escape.)



WRECK OF SALON MARITIMO.

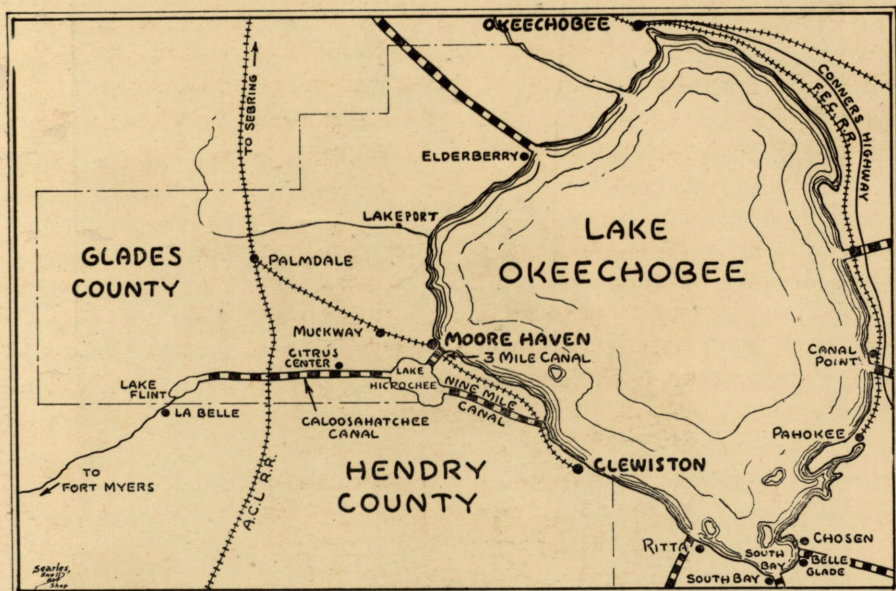


## *Like Rats in a Trap*

THE EVERGLADES, some times designated in geographies as terra incognita, or unknown land, is a vast territory of extremely fertile country covering an area of 4,000 square miles (2,560,000 acres) south of Lake Okeechobee, which, next to Lake Michigan, is the largest body of fresh water wholly within the United States.

Some twenty years ago the State of Florida set machinery in motion to drain this region by cutting a number of canals from tide water into the lake. The problem of drainage was considered simple from an engineering viewpoint, since it is a well accepted principle that water runs down hill. The level of the lake was nearly 22 feet above sea level, and the original project was to lower the level four feet, this being deemed sufficient at the time to keep the lake from overflowing. This would have reduced the level to about 18 feet.

Though drainage operations progressed slowly, being hampered by the lack of sufficient funds to push the work more rapidly, they attracted nation-wide attention. The superlative fertility of the



MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF MOORE HAVEN, THE EVERGLADES TOWN WHICH WAS SWEEPED AWAY WHEN THE DIKE AROUND THE LAKE BROKE.





WHAT REMAINED OF MOORE HAVEN'S MAIN STREET AFTER THE STORM.



soil was demonstrated by pioneer farmers who settled, or made crops, on the first areas reclaimed. Far sighted men envisaged an opportunity in opening this new agricultural empire to cultivation; a territory in which the climate was so equable as to make it possible to grow crops at all seasons, and so productive that it was not unusual to harvest a return of a thousand dollars an acre. Syndicates for the sale of these lands were organized by men of large means who purchased thousands of acres from the State at nominal prices, because the State needed money to keep its dredges working, and it was agreed that the lands in their undrained condition were not worth much.

Many thousands of acres were reclaimed, and it followed naturally that the land bordering the southern shores of the lake were at once the most fertile and the first to be ready for cultivation. Here the elevation was highest and the rich muck was deepest. By looking at any recent map of Florida it may be seen that a number of towns have been settled on the southern and eastern shores of Lake Okeechobee, among them Canal Point, Pahokee, Chosen, Belle Glade, South Bay, Okeelanta, Ritta, Bare Beach, Clewiston, and Moore Haven. Each of these was a small but thriving agricultural community. The claim was made during the last trucking season that the deposits in the Bank of Pahokee were greater per capita to the population than those of any other bank in the country, the average being about \$5,000 for every man, woman and child living in the village. This indicates the prosperity which rewarded the labor and hardihood of these pioneers when seasons were favorable and prices for winter vegetables were good. It also explains the attraction which had brought people to settle in this region from every part of the United States.

The drainage operations had progressed far enough to demonstrate the value of the land, but in spite of the run-off through the numerous canals which had been opened, it became clear that other works would be necessary to protect the inhabitants near the lake from overflow during the wet seasons, which last from June till October. In view of this discovery, a dike was built around the southern shores of the lake several years ago. This dike was neither very high nor very substantial and consisted only of a bank of the native muck. It was observed at Moore Haven twenty-four hours before the storm that the dike was not more than two feet above the lake level.

Moore Haven, the largest town in the Everglades, was almost totally destroyed in the hurricane of September 18. It was the seat





FISHING BODIES OUT OF THE WATER AT MOORE HAVEN, MANY OF WHICH WERE UNRECOGNIZABLE.



of Glades County, which was created by legislative enactment in 1921. The census of 1925, enumerated under authority of the State, gave the population of the county as 2,467, and that of Moore Haven as 705. The Everglades News, published at Canal Point, states that about 1200 persons lived at Moore Haven. A considerable community of negroes lived outside the limits and consequently was not included in the census of the town.

Warning of the hurricane was posted in the Moore Haven post office Friday, September 17, but no signal was hoisted and there were many who had no knowledge of it. At least nobody left the town, and it is assumed that such a warning, if it had been generally known, would have created consternation, because the town had been flooded several times, and it was well known that its situation was precarious because of the danger that threatened it in event of overflow.

Lake Okeechobee is about 37 miles long at its greatest length and about 35 miles wide at its greatest width. It covers an area of some 450,000 acres. In 1913 a survey of the lake was made by Isham Randolph, a noted engineer of Chicago, who had been employed by the Florida Board of Drainage Commissioners to investigate conditions in the Everglades and recommend a comprehensive plan for draining that region. Randolph reported, as others had before him, that the lowering of the lake was the key to the situation, and went into an exhaustive study of the subject in which he calculated the effect of wind upon its waters. He also pointed out other factors that should be



AFTER THE FLOOD AT MOORE HAVEN HAD PARTIALLY RECEDED.



considered in the problem of lowering the lake to a level at which the hazards of overflow might be overcome.

It appears that those who directed the drainage operations paid little attention to the Randolph report though the sum of \$40,000 was paid for it. The painstaking calculations Randolph made concerning the action of wind upon the expansive bosom of the lake, might as well have been lost. Indeed it was not necessary for any one familiar with the lake to have any knowledge of the Randolph report to know that a strong wind blowing across the lake for many hours from the north would cause the water to overflow at the south. In July of the current year a storm of much force caused an overflow. At that time water was four feet high in some of the houses, and much damage resulted.

The wind that caused the lake to flood Moore Haven September 18 was from the northeast, and the region southwest of the lake was deluged. Perhaps the consequences would not have been so destructive had the storm struck in daylight, but it came upon the unfortunate town like a thief in the night. At two o'clock of the morning of the 18th the fire whistle was sounded. There was a somewhat general response from the residents, and they began reinforcing the dike with sand bags, and raised it about two feet. Probably this was the worst thing that they could have done, because it had the effect of impounding the water, giving it increased force and volume when eventually the dike broke.

Again at three o'clock the fire whistle was sounded, and the number of frenzied workers at the dike was increased by many who had not responded to the first call. All night these valiant men labored. When grey dawn came they gave up hope. They were exhausted. The water continued to rise, and by 6 o'clock they saw the dike break at several points. Panic seized them, and they fled for their lives, but too late. Some escaped in automobiles, others climbed to places of safety, but hundreds were drowned like rats in a trap.

The Everglades News tells how one J. E. Chestnutt saved his wife and five children and himself by cutting a hole in the roof of his house after the rising water had forced them to seek the attic for safety. They crawled through the hole and from the room swam till they were able to catch hold of taut communication wires, where they clung desperately until the water receded. Others were lost in attempting to escape in a like manner.

Hal Leyshon, who visited the Moore Haven district for the



Miami Daily News, reported the following heart rending story, which no doubt was typical of many others:

H. H. Howell, city marshal of Moore Haven, sat on a lounge in the Nan-Ces-O-Wee Hotel here (Sebring) and told me how his wife, with four children tied to her, all of them supported by inflated inner tubes, had floated for seven hours and how she had fought through, with rare presence of mind, to save two of the children.

"I was at work on the levee when it crumbled that morning at 9 o'clock," Howell related. "A six-foot wall of water came over and I tried to reach my little home not far from the edge of the levee. My wife had prepared for just such an emergency. She had tied an inflated inner tube about each of our four children and two about herself. Using a pair of silk stockings, she bound them all to her. When the wave came they floated out the front door.

"For an hour and a half they drifted west before the wind. Then the wind and current changed and they were carried down the bank of the canal. They floated another hour and then were swept through and over a barbed wire fence. The tube that supported my six-year-old boy, George, was punctured and he drowned, but my wife would not then cut him loose. After another hour the baby, little three-year-old Eleanor, died of strangulation. My wife couldn't keep the waves out of her face. And still they floated on. For two hours more my wife swam with the four children, two of them dead. Realizing that her strength was almost gone, she finally freed the two drowned children



WHY RAIL COMMUNICATION TO MOORE HAVEN WAS IMPOSSIBLE.





BURYING THE MOORE HAVEN DEAD IN TRENCHES WAS A SORROWFUL CEREMONY.



and battled on to save the two that remained alive. Shortly afterward the oldest boy, Oliver, was torn away from my wife and carried off in another direction. A cross tie floated by and he climbed upon it. As the current carried him on, the cross tie floated by the body of his baby sister, Eleanor. Oliver reached down and raised the baby's head. Seeing she was dead, he let her go and she floated out of sight, half supported by the inner tube.

"About 4 o'clock in the afternoon a current carried my wife to the home of a neighbor named Steers. She and 7-year-old Laverne, the only child remaining with her, were taken in and made as comfortable as possible. That night Oliver, who had floated to a high spot on one of the canal banks, waded back after the water had gone down and found his mother."

"Marshal Howell dabbed at his eyes. 'It's mighty hard to lose almost half of your little family, but I'm mighty proud of that wife of mine,' he concluded. Mrs. Howell, Laverne and Oliver were taken to LaBelle where they are staying with relatives. They are none the worse, physically, for their harrowing experience."

A few of the more substantial structures were standing after the storm, including the court house, school house, the Odd Fellows Hall, the Masonic building, the hotel and a few residences.

Relief expeditions were sent out from Tampa, Fort Myers, Orlando, Avon Park and Sebring. Red Cross established headquarters at Sebring where several hundred refugees were given shelter.

The number of dead was estimated by the editor of the Everglades News, who viewed the scene and had first hand communication with survivors, at 300, though he added that the total number of victims probably would never be known. The official count of those who perished was 150. Some of the bodies recovered were so decomposed that it was impossible to determine if they were black or white.

Such is the tragic story of Moore Haven. Frequent complaints had been made to the State Drainage Board that the locks should not be kept closed but it seems that no heed was given. The water released probably would have reduced the lake to a point where the disaster of September 18 might have been averted. The flood raised a commotion among the inhabitants of the lake towns with the result that a letter was sent to President Coolidge asking that the control of the lake level be placed under the War Department.

As a direct result of this activity following the storm, the Secretary of War directed the United States engineer who has supervision of this district, Lieut. Col. Mark L. Brooke, to make a survey of the



Caloosahatchee River with a view to establishing flood control measures. It is another case of fastening the stable door after the horse has been stolen. Congressman Herbert L. Drane of the First Florida District, in which lies the affected territory, secured the passage of an act in February, 1925, authorizing such a survey, but there had been no action. The Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce is credited with taking the initiative which led up to the recent War Department order.

Senator Duncan U. Fletcher has announced that he will introduce a water control measure at the next session of Congress. Such widespread publicity followed the Florida storm the hope is now indulged that Congress will pass an act to serve the desired end.

Not only have Everglades residents been wrought up over conditions but the large land owners are now demanding a change in the plans for draining the region. They will urge that a board of expert drainage engineers be placed in charge of the Everglades enterprise with sufficient funds to do what is necessary to reclaim the territory and make it safe and fit to live in.

There is no question of the extreme fertility of the soil. It is said to be the richest agricultural area in the world—not excepting the famed valley of the Nile—and there is every reason to believe that such claims are well founded.



JUST A TANGLED MASS OF WRECKAGE.



## *Exaggerated Reports and Relief*

While the recent Florida hurricane was the most severe ever to visit this state, and ranks with the most tragic of all disasters, there is not the slightest question that the first reports were greatly exaggerated. The number of dead reported was largely in excess of the actual number, and general conditions were pictured to be much worse than they were. It was stated, for example, that the number killed in Miami was 1,000, whereas the number accounted for was 115. It was said that Miami had been totally blotted out; that want, pestilence and outlawry stalked through the devastated city. A negro newspaper in Chicago published a story stating that white citizens had lynched many negroes. It became necessary for the Miami Chamber of Commerce to issue a denial of a published report that yellow fever existed at Hollywood. And there were many other stories equally untrue which, published broadcast, were given credence. Stories of looting and looters being shot were common, and untrue. There was some looting, but no looters were shot.

It was not strange that many wild reports were circulated outside the stricken district, for they were current on the streets of Miami. This situation was occasioned by the general confusion and disorder that follow any accident or calamity in which a great many people are affected. This is not written to minimize the destruction, for the chief purpose actuating this writer is to state conditions as they truly existed.

The urgency of mentioning exaggerated reports is apparent because they have led to a most unfortunate controversy among persons engaged in relief work, which is raging even at the moment these words are written. Governor John W. Martin visited Miami soon after the storm, and upon his return gave out the statement that conditions were not as bad as had been reported. This brought forth a heated rejoinder from John Barton Payne, of Washington, executive chief of Red Cross, to the effect that Governor Martin's statement had hindered the collection of funds for relief. He intimated that the Governor and real estate operators were attempting to minimize the situation for unworthy purposes.

The Miami Daily News urged that the Governor call an extra session of the legislature for the purpose of appropriating several million dollars for relief, and queried members of the legisla-





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ESTABLISHED A RELIEF STATION IN FRONT OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.



ture concerning their attitude. Many replies favored the idea, but more conservative members doubted if constitutional authority existed for such action. The Governor refused to act upon the suggestion made by the News that the legislature be convened in extraordinary session, which brought the wrath of that newspaper down upon his official head. The News charged the Governor with incapacity and duplicity and made other unparliamentary comments. In his reply to the charge made by Red Cross and the News, Governor Martin charged that his statements had been misrepresented; that he had not intended to convey the impression that the destruction was less than actually existed, and he alleged that the unwarranted construction placed upon his utterances itself had been responsible for retarding the collection of funds. Criticism of the Governor for refusing to call a special session of the legislature was ill advised, as will appear upon reading Section 10, of Article 9, of the Constitution of Florida as follows:

"The credit of the State shall not be pledged or loaned to any individual, company, corporation or association; nor shall the State become a joint owner or stockholder in any company, association or corporation. The legislature shall not authorize any county, city, borough, township or incorporated district to become a stockholder in any company, association or corporation, or to obtain or appropriate money for, or to loan its credit to, any corporation, association, or individual."

And Section 6, of Article 9:

"The legislature shall have power to provide for issuing State bonds only for the purpose of repelling invasion or suppressing insurrection, or for the purpose of redeeming or refunding bonds already issued, at a lower rate of interest."

Mayor Romfh sought advice from the Dade County Bar Association, and was cited to the sections quoted by W. I. Evans, president of the Association, who said:

"If the legislature could be of assistance to the injured portion of the State a special session would be undoubtedly warranted, but before asking the Governor to call such special session the nature of the relief desired should be determined and the extent of the power of the legislature to grant that relief should be established. I know it to be true



that it has been impossible up to this date (September 27) to determine in what manner, if at all, the legislature could be of assistance to us."

In spite of all the controversy, however, the amount collected by Red Cross has amounted to more than \$3,600,000 at this time. It will be understood, of course, that this amount will not begin to cover the losses or establish rehabilitation. This is not expected of Red Cross. The essential work of that organization is to bring quick relief to those who are suffering, and in need. The organization acted promptly, and it cannot be doubted that the ability of such a national force to place its integers in immediate action has proved anew its worth and beneficent efficiency. In such emergencies there is always some criticism of the agencies that are active, but there can be no question concerning the vital character and value of the work accomplished by Red Cross. Florida has experienced a practical demonstration of the motivating impulses that control the organization and has every reason to feel a lasting sense of gratitude and to contribute liberally to its cause in the future.

In this connection it is only fair to say that the various relief units were efficiently organized immediately following the storm under the general leadership of James H. Gilman, City Commissioner, who was acting Mayor in the absence of Mayor Edward C. Romfh. Mr. Romfh was in New York at the time, but started for Miami as



RED CROSS WORKERS AT A DOWNTOWN RELIEF STATION.



soon as possible after the news of the storm had reached him. Praise of Mr. Gilman's capable handling of the difficult situation is heard on all sides. Upon Mr. Romfh's return he assumed the reins in the calm and efficient manner which is characteristic of him, though Mr. Gilman retained chairmanship of the Central Relief Committee. These agencies co-ordinated the activities of the city and county police, fire department, and military, and conducted first aid work for days before the Red Cross stepped in to take charge. There were many volunteers and a number of units engaged, and all are entitled to that measure of credit which such noble work deserves, but if one may be permitted to designate a single unit which did particularly prompt and courageous work, that was the American Legion.

Headquarters on Bayshore Boulevard were turned into an emergency hospital, where many of the injured were taken. They tendered their services to the police department and assisted in policing the town. They looked after the distribution of large quantities of food and other supplies.

The promptness with which the Legion acted may be judged by the fact that patients were being cared for in its improvised hospital by noon Saturday, before the storm had really subsided. On Friday night, when the hurricane reached Miami Harvey Seeds Post was in the midst of a festive occasion which had been termed Mardi Gras, planned for the purpose of paying expenses incident to attending the convention in Philadelphia. Thus members of the Legion were ap-



HOSPITAL SCENE AT AMERICAN LEGION HEADQUARTERS.



prised of the storm while others slept but it was no less to their credit that they were early on the scene ready and willing to render aid to the injured and those bereft of their homes.

All of the hospitals were crowded and several hotels were opened as emergency hospitals. Many of the cases were slight casualties only but nurses and physicians served for long hours in looking after the wounded. All ambulances were busy for days, and besides the vehicles built especially for this purpose many cars to bring in the injured were volunteered.

Hundreds were badly hurt, some of whom may not recover. Newspapers reported about 500 fractured skulls. A fractured skull always is serious enough though not necessarily fatal. There were many broken bones, and any number who got nails and splinters in their feet and hands. The McAllister and Columbus Hotels in Miami, the Flamingo, Roney Plaza, William Penn, Floridian hotels at Miami Beach were thrown open for emergency cases, and to refugees, for the number of hospitals at Miami and Miami Beach was not sufficient to meet the extraordinary demand upon their accommodations.



ORPHANS OF THE STORM BEING MOTHERED BY GIRL SCOUTS.



## *Citizens' Relief Committee*

THE Citizen's Relief Committee was organized with the following personnel, the first meeting being held at the Central Fire Station Saturday evening, September 18, the day of the storm:

Chairman, James H. Gilman; assistant chairman, E. S. Blodgett; secretary, S. P. Robineau; and the following departmental heads: Building supplies, M. A. Milam; food control, E. H. Mangels; negro population, A. H. Adams; water, gas and light, Joe H. Gill; municipal utilities and general sanitation, Ernest Cotton; plumbing sanitation, Alex Orr; hospitals, Mrs. Mamie Terrell; medical service and nurses, Dr. J. W. Snyder; Red Cross, Miss Christiance; food relief stations, C. H. Reeder; relief fund, R. A. Reeder; railroad and steamship transportation, Norman W. Graves; unskilled labor, W. Cecil Watson; gas, oil, fuel, H. O. Shaw; shelter and housing, John MacDonough; burial and mortuary, J. J. Combs, Jr.; American Legion, R. V. Waters; Boy Scouts, John C. Norsk; Chamber of Commerce, Lon Worth Crow; publicity and information, F. L. Weede; home reconstruction, Mr. McGee; inter-departmental organization, S. P. Robineau; Salvation Army, Maj. D. McMillan.

Co-operating with the Citizens' Relief Committee in their several official capacities were James H. Gilman, acting mayor; Frank H. Wharton, city manager; H. Leslie Quigg, chief of police; Henry Chase, sheriff; and Col. V. B. Collins, 124th Infantry, N. G. F., who was in command of the military ordered to Miami by Governor Martin, composed of the following units: Company "A", Hollywood, 58; Company "B" and det., Miami, 69; Company "C", West Palm Beach, 40; Company "D" and det., Sanford, 57; Service Co., St. Augustine, 26; total, 250.

### *Emergency Relief Fund*

An emergency relief fund amounting to \$277,580.92 was collected and used for food, clothing, medical supplies, building material and labor. All work of the Citizen's Committee except finance, was absorbed by Red Cross September 30. The committee had become obligated for supplies upon requisition with the presumption that all funds in hand would be required to pay such bills, and the funds remaining in the hands of the committee were retained, no part of this amount being turned over to the Red Cross.



## *The Military*

THE military on duty following the hurricane was composed of thirty-eight officers and four hundred and twenty-five enlisted men, National Guard of Florida, employed in the area east of Lake Okeechobee under Colonel Vivian B. Collins, 124th Infantry; and 22 officers and 182 enlisted men in the area west of Lake Okeechobee under Colonel Sumter L. Lowry, Jr., 116th Field Artillery. After the first four days these forces were gradually reduced as the civil authorities indicated they were in position to maintain order without military aid. No formal declaration of martial law was made in any storm area. The troops were simply present to aid the civil authorities and acted under their instructions. This information was given the writer by Adjutant-General J. Clifford R. Foster, and should settle the question as to whether there was any declaration of martial law. Immediately after the storm the American Legion tendered its services to the chief of police in Miami and assisted in picketing the town. The Chief of Police enforced a curfew order for a few days requiring all persons to be off the streets by 6 o'clock in the evening. This was done in the interest of safety because there were many shop windows which had been broken by the storm, leaving goods exposed and there were many homes similarly exposed. The order was intended to aid the police in protecting property and also to serve the populace as well in view of the fact that the streets were not lighted and were full of obstructions, and for these reasons the order was regarded as being well considered and highly proper.

On September 26 Colonel Collins addressed a letter to Mayor Romfh asking when it would be possible for the number of troops on duty to be reduced, and received a reply the next day from the Mayor, thanking the commanding officers and the troops for their co-operation during a trying period, and stating that as the crisis had been passed the regular police force would be able to handle the situation. Accordingly the soldiers were withdrawn, and Miami settled down to life very much as it was prior to the hurricane.

The situation in the Moore Haven district required the presence of troops there for several weeks. They were finally withdrawn November 2.



## *Losses and Insurance*

THE total tornado insurance written in the Miami district, which includes Pompano, Fort Lauderdale, Dania, Hollywood, Hallandale, Ojus, Little River, Lemon City, Buena Vista, Miami, Miami Beach, Coconut Grove, Coral Gables, and Hialeah was \$55,484,685. The companies will pay on that amount from twenty to twenty-five per cent. that being the average amount of damage in proportion to the face of the policies. The amount of damage wrought by the storm in the Miami district as described is estimated by insurance authorities to have been \$165,000,000. This probably is the most reliable estimate that has been made.

Shipping authorities agree that it will be many months before it will be possible to ascertain what the marine losses amounted to. The only way in which that could be obtained would be to find and interview the owners of the several hundred vessels that were sunk, destroyed or stranded. I interviewed the dockmaster, Capt. Schollenberger and others who generally are possessed of knowledge of marine affairs but I could get no definite information. They simply had no idea as to what the losses would amount to. Some of the vessels in the harbor went down with all on board. This was true in the case of the Nohab, the former Kaiserein's yacht, which was built at the Krupp works and was presented to the Kaiserein by Bertha Krupp. This yacht had been in Miami harbor all winter. For awhile it was used as a kind of dinner club, the lure being chiefly the silver bath tubs in which German royalty had bathed. The vessel had been purchased by a corporation with the purpose of putting it in passenger service between Miami and Nassau, but there were some financial difficulties and the vessel still was inactive at the time of the storm. Only one member of the crew was saved, the engineer, who happened to be ashore. Five were lost when the Nohab went down. The vessel was not sunk, but is down on its side and waterlogged. It is probable that it will be salvaged. Some of the wrecks were picturesque. The five-masted schooner Rose Mahony from San Francisco was stranded at the foot of Ninth street and viewed from a distance has the appearance of being in the middle of the street. While as a matter of fact she is not, the schooner is quite a distance from the Bay, and it will cost a pretty penny to launch her, to say nothing of the damage she has suffered. A survey of wrecked



and stranded vessels was made at Miami by Ensign Morris N. Partridge, of the United States Navy (Reserve) acting Chairman of the Marine Committee for Red Cross and representative of United States, and city engineers. Ensign Partridge included 372 vessels in his survey, which, admittedly, was not complete. More than 150 yachts and houseboats anchored in the basin of Captain George K. Pilkington at Fort Lauderdale were damaged. Fourteen were sunk, but the probability is that all of these will be salvaged. The cost of salvage and the damage suffered will be great, probably not less than half of the total value of the property involved. Thus it will be seen that the actual damage to marine property takes on an aspect quite different from that which characterizes houses and other property on land. Salvaging a sunken vessel might cost as much as the original value, but there are reasons why vessels must be salvaged if possible. Capt. R. H. Wilson, bridge engineer of the City of Miami, was charged with the duty of clearing the Miami River. That stream was filled with sunken vessels, and it was necessary to open it to navigation. The owners were required to raise their vessels at once or allow the city to do so. Any one who has owned a boat understands the feeling akin to affection which attaches to such property. The probability is that many an owner will spend more than the hull is worth to salvage it.

That there was a considerable loss of life on vessels there can be no question, but this also is a matter for conjecture only. The dredge Miami valued at \$350,000 and insured for its full value, was lost, presumably with several persons on board. How many vessels that were lost with all on board is not known. I am convinced that the number of reported dead is less than the number who perished for those reported dead refers only to bodies recovered. On the other hand the likelihood is that many reported missing will be found. I dined with friends at Miami Beach a few nights ago and present was one who had been reported missing. He had saved nothing but a bathing suit.

Plate glass losses in Miami were estimated at \$500,000, and automobile damage at \$300,000. These figures are taken from the Insurance Field, published at 405 South Fourth Street, Louisville, Ky. Raymund Daniels, associate editor of that publication, spent several weeks in Miami reporting the insurance features following the hurricane, and the work he did will be of much assistance to the future historian. Immediately after the storm an army of insurance



adjusters came to Miami. A bureau was established at the Columbus Hotel, and the adjusters were organized as follows:

Organization Committee: Secretary, H. G. Foard, of the Home of New York, chairman; Vice-President, A. R. Phillips, of the Great American, New York; Southern Deputy Manager, R. H. Colcock, Jr., of the Liverpool & London & Globe, New Orleans; Southern Manager R. B. Barnett of the Fire Association, Atlanta; General Adjuster Guy F. Elliott of the Travelers Fire of Hartford.

Steering Committee: General Manager E. P. Roberts of the Southern Adjustment Bureau, Atlanta, chairman; General Agent George W. Mills of Jacksonville; General Adjuster J. O. Dye of the Great American, New York; Assistant General Agent H. J. Hopkins of the Hartford Fire, Atlanta; B. K. Clapp of Clapp, Stenger & Co., independent adjusters, Atlanta; J. T. Dargan, Jr., of Windle, Burlingame & Dargan, independent adjusters, New York; Harry S. Gardner, adjuster, Home of New York.

Mr. Daniels told me that the Miami storm was the most unique in the history of disasters in which insurance played a part for the reason that every claim would have to be individually adjusted, and in view of the fact that more than 6,000 claims already had been filed the figures he gave me would be good for at least a year succeeding the hurricane. More than 150 companies had accepted liability insurance in the Miami district. The Hartford led the list with \$4,227,950 and approximately 600 claims; the Globe and Rutgers was second with \$3,957,000 with only 69 claims, an average policy valuation of \$55,000. The Aetna group bore \$1,995,000 of the liability while other heavily involved companies were the City of New York, Concordia, Fire Association, Fireman's Fund, Milwaukee, Mechanics and North River, each with liabilities of more than a million. Mr. Daniels estimated that the storm insurance policies would bring from \$10,000,000 to \$13,000,000 into the Miami district, which will assist materially in the work of rehabilitation. The number of death and accident claims was negligible. Evidently those who were killed and injured did not, as a rule, carry insurance.

It is estimated that 20,000 families are subject for relief as provided by Red Cross. In a statement issued October 7, Henry M. Baker, director of relief work, stated that with the emergency relief period officially closed the organization would begin the task of giving individual consideration to the needs of every family, and making awards from the relief fund for permanent rehabilitation.

"The need of the family will guide the relief workers in



determining the amount of every award," Mr. Baker stated. "Neither the Red Cross nor any other organization can replace losses, but we hope sufficient help can be given, which when supplemented by the family's own resources, will place it in a self-supporting, self-respecting position, with a future approximating the normal."

For the week closing at noon, October 9, Red Cross relief had been given as follows, these figures being for the entire storm stricken section: Food to 6,500; clothing to 4,650; medical and nursing service to 113,200; building and repair jobs to houses to 12,330; tents to accommodate 11,900.

Administrative headquarters were established in Boca Raton (land development offices) on East Flagler Street in Miami, and a tent community at Sebring is being used as headquarters for refugees from the Moore Haven district. Later Miami's headquarters were moved to the American Legion building.

Following is a summary of storm damage, with the exception of estimates of property damage, as compiled by Red Cross as of October 9, for all places in Florida that were damaged by the hurricane:

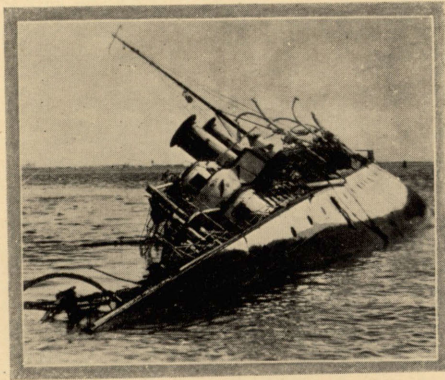
#### ESTIMATES OF STORM DAMAGE

| Area                       | Dead | Injured | Families |            |
|----------------------------|------|---------|----------|------------|
|                            |      |         | Affected | Registered |
| Fort Lauderdale.....       | 17   | 1,800   | 4,800    | 750        |
| Pompano.....               |      |         | 250      | 30         |
| Davie.....                 | 2    | 6       | 85       | 57         |
| Hollywood.....             | 39   | 750     | 1,500    | 699        |
| Fort Myers.....            | 2    | 3       | 149      | 158        |
| Sebring (Moore Haven)..... | 150  | 50      | 600      | 361        |
| Hialeah.....               | 26   | 800     | 1,500    | 621        |
| Miami.....                 | 115  | 1,300   | 5,000    | 3,000      |
| Miami Beach.....           | 17   | 1,632   | 2,000    | 485        |
| Rural Dade County.....     | 5    | 40      | 2,000    | 500        |
|                            | 373  | 6,381   | 17,884   | 6,661      |

When it comes to estimates of property damage, there is no certain way of ascertaining the amount, or even approximating it. The Citizens Committee estimated the damage in Miami proper at \$75,000,000, based upon first reports. One of the items in this esti-



mate was that five thousand houses had been damaged to the extent of \$500 each, total \$2,500,000. A close survey would probably prove this to be underestimated. Nearly every house that was damaged at all was hurt to a greater extent than \$500. Many were demolished altogether, and some that did not appear to be damaged to any extent from the exterior revealed a sorry plight inside. An insurance journal gave estimates received evidently from insurance adjusters in Miami that the loss in the Miami district was \$165,000,000. This figure has the seeming of being more nearly correct, but damage throughout the storm area, a path sixty miles wide across the lower peninsula, a jump across the Gulf to Pensacola, damaging that city to the extent of \$2,000,000 after leaving a million dollar loss at Fort Myers, is difficult to estimate. An item of damage which has not been given due consideration was that to ornamental and fruit trees. Many citrus, avocado and mango groves were ruined. The trees were broken and split down the middle, a condition that forbids salvage except by sawing off and rebudding which would cost more, perhaps, than resetting new groves in their places. No adequate estimate can be placed upon this kind of loss. The citrus crop loss was estimated at \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000.



SAD END OF EX-KAISEREIN'S YACHT  
NOHAB.



## *How the News Was Given The World*

**A**N UNUSUAL opportunity for the exercise of courage and ability under trying conditions came to newspaper representatives upon the wings of the hurricane. The first to get a story out was Alfred P. Reck, United Press correspondent at Miami. This he managed with the assistance of the staff of the Tropical Radio station at Hialeah. In order to transmit the message it was necessary to rig up a temporary sending apparatus, because the storm had wrecked the radio plant and dismantled the towers. Communication was established with the Ward line steamer Siboney off the Florida coast, and the message was relayed to East Hampton, L. I., and then telephoned to New York. The message read as follows:

"Miami, Florida Via SS Siboney and East Hampton, L. I. N. Y., N. F. T. 18th (Saturday), United Press, New York or Washington, D. C.—Miami in ruins after worst hurricane in history of country. Seventy-five known dead, property damage one hundred million dollars. More than two thousand injured. Help needed badly. Hurricane hit first about two o'clock Saturday from northwest (?) then changed and blew from the south until three o'clock in afternoon. Barge with thirty-five on board sunk in harbor. Huge freighter driven high and dry in Royal Palm Park. Huge twenty-story Meyer-Kiser bank building wrecked. Miami Tribune wrecked. City docks completely destroyed. (?) All boats in harbor sunk, including Nohab formerly owned by ex-German kaiser. Food, medical supplies and troops needed. (Signed) RECK."

(Author's note—The interrogation points indicate inaccuracies. The wind was from the northeast. The Meyer-Kiser building is 18 stories, and the city docks were not destroyed, though warehouses on them were.)

This message was received in New York at 1:45 Sunday morning which enabled Sunday papers to carry the news. Considering everything it was a remarkably correct story. After sending his radio message the correspondent went to West Palm Beach, accompanied by four assistants, who carried axes, which they truly anticipated would be needed in cutting trees and the obstructions out of the road to permit their car to pass. They arrived at destination Sunday afternoon, and from West Palm Beach Mr. Reck telephoned a more extended account of the disaster to the Atlanta office of the United Press.



Not far behind its competitor, the Associated Press received news of the storm from its Miami correspondent, Reginald P. Mitchell, who is only a youngster, 24 years old. Mr. Mitchell had experienced good training, however, having worked for the Savannah Morning News and Nashville Banner. He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, and did newspaper work between semesters to aid in getting through college. That of itself shows pluck, and the ingenuity and courage which he brought to bear in making the difficult journey to West Palm Beach from Miami in order to file his first account of the storm is additional evidence of his quality. He was accompanied by Reese Amis, telegraph editor of the Miami Daily News. They began their journey Saturday afternoon (the day of the storm) in a delivery truck. A short distance south of Fort Lauderdale their vehicle mired and they were forced to abandon it and walk to Fort Lauderdale, where they spent the night. The next morning they procured an automobile and reached West Palm Beach at 11:30, where they transmitted their stories, Amis sending a special to the New York Times. The Associated Press sent staff men, R. S. Pickens and M. B. Alexander, from Atlanta by airplane to the storm area. They started from Atlanta Sunday afternoon. Their plane was piloted by Beeler Blevins of Candler Field, stopping at Tifton, Ga., and Palatka, Florida, for refueling. They reached Miami Monday in time to send a story back that day.

There was great rivalry among the picture concerns to get photographs of storm damage. Pacific and Atlantic Photos are credited with having had five airplanes working at the task, and they also claim credit for delivering the first photographs in New York, September 21, three days after the storm. Rival concerns were only a few hours later.

The Chicago Herald and Examiner, Hearst paper, sent a special relief train to Miami, loaded with a hundred persons, doctors and nurses, under the direction of Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, city health commissioner of Chicago. They brought supplies to sustain their party for ten days, and a large amount of emergency medical materials and milk. The Herald-Examiner also contributed \$10,000 to the relief fund. The Chicago Daily News used its radio for the benefit of storm sufferers, and raised \$15,000 the first evening.

The Editor and Publisher, of New York, in its issue of September 25 carried full and detailed accounts of how the news was carried, and the part that newspapers and newspaper workers had in spreading the news and assisting the work of relief.



Miami newspapers achieved notable things during the days following the storm. It was impossible to issue papers from their own plants for the lack of electric power, but the Miami Daily News never missed an issue, printing a bulletin upon a job press Saturday, in which brief storm news was given, along with the announcement of its contribution of \$5,000 for relief work. The News must have the credit of opening the relief fund. The Miami Herald issued its paper from the press of the Palm Beach Post and the Miami Tribune was printed from its sister press of the Palm Beach Times, until power service was resumed in Miami which was only a few days, so far as concerned newspapers and certain downtown sections. Many weeks will pass, however, before service is resumed throughout the city. The power company has done remarkable work in reconstructing its prostrate poles and lines, and making repairs to its plant. The loss to this company alone must run into millions.

The Miami Post building which had been completed only a short time before the hurricane, was the most thorough wreck that came under the observation of this writer. It crumpled completely, and as the machinery in it was practically new the loss was heavy. The Post lost no time in reconstructing a shelter for its plant, however, and again is at home to its friends on the same spot.

The printing plant at Miami Beach which publishes Miami Life and the Miami Beach Beacon, suffered severe damage, but Life didn't miss an issue, though its storm edition was only a handbill. Alton Little, associated with Editor Kent Watson, of the Beacon, was one of the first victims of the storm. He was killed by a falling beam in the Wofford Hotel and Watson also was hurt, though not seriously.



VIEW OF THE COUNTY CAUSEWAY---OBSERVE THE STREET CAR TRACKS WHICH FORMERLY WERE IN THE CENTER.



## *Rehabilitation*

**A**FTER the hurricane had passed the street department of the City of Miami faced the most imposing task of its existence, one that would have caused many a street superintendent to pale and falter. Those streets lying in the vicinity of the Miami River and along Biscayne Bay near the mouth of the river, and also near the County Causeway were covered with black mud and seaweed. The mud was a fine, sticky silt that had been left by the waters when they receded, and was almost as difficult to handle as molasses. At Miami Beach the street department had sand to contend with. The beach had been washed in and distributed over the streets in layers ranging in depth from three to five feet, but removing sand was a lark compared to the job of cleaning the Miami streets of mud. Nearly two thousand laborers, 400 trucks, many tractors, graders and steam shovels were engaged in the work of cleaning up, and the cost to the city was about \$100,000.

Hundreds of coconut and Australian pine trees had been blown into the streets, and those which had fallen in yards and on lawns were dumped into the streets to be carted away. All trees that were left standing had been stripped and denuded, and this mass of debris added to the burdens of the street cleaners. Special squads were detailed for this work, and other squads were put at collecting the dead fish, which were found everywhere along the water fronts and some times hundreds of yards inland. The removal of this odoriferous offal of the storm was one of prime importance.

The removal of tons of shattered glass, plaster, broken laths and disintegrated concrete was a large item in the sum total of the week's labor, for a week after the extra army of street cleaners had started work the streets were passable and presentable. Most of the debris was burned and that which was not combustible was dumped into pits. The completion of the task was assumed by the sanitary department.

Every department of the city was crowded with demands upon its resources and personnel. The fire department extinguished 1,500 fires in five days. This work was done by a fire patrol charged with the duty of watching trash fires. It was a wise precautionary measure. The storm left hundreds of cesspools in the suburban districts out of order, and these had to be pumped out. This was only one of



numerous disorders caused by the storm. Everything seemed the matter with everything for a while, and that is why Miami's resiliency in achieving such a rapid recovery is cause for genuine wonder.

No sooner had the storm passed than people began to repair their houses. Roofs, screens and windows were the objects demanding first attention. There were not many roofs that did not suffer damage, and thousands were blown off, hence the demand for roofing was urgent. The entire stock of roofing material was sold out in a day or two, and rush orders for needed supplies were dispatched, but in spite of the stocks that were purchased and delivered the demand continued. Dealers worked early and late, but no matter how early they opened their doors they would find a long line of customers waiting.

The City Commissioners voluntarily waived building permits for repairs for thirty days. Mechanics and laborers from other states rushed to Miami looking for work, but the influx became so great that the City Manager soon announced that the number of workers on the ground was able to cope with the situation, and inquirers were told that it would be unwise to come to Miami, particularly those applicants in South Dakota and other far distant States who wrote in advance of their plans to seek employment here. All of the large construction jobs in progress at the time of the hurricane already were manned, and forces immediately were marshaled to repair damaged buildings in the down town district. Those residents who were able to do so started repairing as soon as materials were obtainable but there were many who could not do so, and there are many in Miami who still are homeless, so far as being under their own roofs is concerned. It was estimated that 25,000 were left without homes. Relief work provided some of these with temporary shelter and others were taken in by friends and relatives. Still others departed for their former homes, or went away to visit with relatives until their homes could be restored.

In some respects the hurricane will prove to have been of much solid value to Miami, and to all other stricken areas. More stringent building regulations will be enforced by closer inspection, and kindred improvements will be made in the enforcement of sanitary laws. Already the health department has put a ban upon rebuilding shack tourist camps, all of which were a mass of ruins after the storm, and the huts and hutches where food was sold which had been so numerous



about town, and along the roadsides leading out of town, have been condemned.

The collapse of so many buildings was due primarily to poor construction. The wonder is rather that so many stood up than that so many went down. After viewing the ruins it was easy to see that the greater number of those that fell lacked storm bracing; that the concrete and stucco used in them had been of inferior mixture, and that roofs had been laid on instead of being anchored to the walls. After seeing this it is not difficult for one, even a novice, to conclude that such construction should never have been allowed.



JAI ALAI PLAYERS CLEANING UP THE WRECK OF THEIR FRONTON.



## Official Bulletins

### *The President's Proclamation*

On September 20, President Coolidge issued a proclamation calling for contributions to be used for the relief of the stricken Florida districts, as follows:

"An overwhelming disaster has come to the people of Miami, Hollywood and surrounding communities in Southern Florida. Such assistance as is within the means of the executive department of the government will be rendered, but, realizing the great suffering which now needs relief and will need relief for days to come, I am prompted to appeal urgently to the American people, whose sympathies have always been so comprehensive, to contribute generously in aiding the sufferers of this disaster.

"That the utmost co-ordination and effectiveness in the administration of the relief funds may be obtained, I urge that all contributions for this purpose be sent to the American National Red Cross at Washington or to the local Red Cross chapters."

### *Miami's Appeal For Funds*

On September 23 the executive division of the Citizens' Relief Committee issued the following appeal for funds:

"TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE:

"The City of Miami is compelled to issue an appeal to the people of the United States for the relief of Miami and Dade County. Six days ago this city of two hundred thousand people was one of the most prosperous, beautiful and delightful communities in this country. Today, as a result of a disastrous tropical hurricane which devastated our Coast last Saturday, it lies prostrate.

"We have one hundred dead; nearly a thousand patients in the general and emergency hospitals, hundreds of them grievously injured. While conditions are being rapidly restored by means of most wonderful and efficient co-operation of its citizens along all important lines, the problems confronting them are almost insurmountable. Food and other necessary supplies are coming in great quantities, and we have been blessed by the arrival of a sufficient number of



physicians and nurses and ample medical supplies for the immediate present.

"But more than five thousand homes have been either entirely destroyed or made unfit for human habitation. Twenty-five thousand people have been rendered homeless. These are being cared for in thousands of instances, by neighbors, who, themselves are suffering. Miami needs money quickly and in large amounts. It needs it to take care of the poor, sick and injured. It needs it to rehabilitate the homes of thousands who have lost everything in the world and who will die of exposure if assistance does not come promptly and amply.

"And so, we send out this appeal, believing that the people of this Nation will respond cheerfully and quickly to this great necessity; and on our part, in return, we can only express our appreciation of the wonderful sympathy and aid which is being shown to our sufferers throughout the whole land, and to venture to hope that we may be able, some day and in some way, to reciprocate to other suffering communities the favor we are now asking.

"Contributions should be sent either by wire or fast mail addressed to John B. Reilly, Treasurer of the Relief Fund Committee, Miami, Florida, or to The American National Red Cross which has been designated by President Coolidge to raise necessary relief funds, of which James H. Gilman of Miami is treasurer of the local chapter.

"The American Red Cross has been placed in full charge of the rehabilitation of Miami and all funds sent for relief will be spent for relief without deductions for administrative costs."

This appeal was signed by:

FRANK B. SHUTTS, Chairman,  
E. C. ROMFH, Mayor,  
RUTH BRYAN OWEN,  
F. M. HUDSON, Formerly President Florida Senate,  
JOHN W. WATSON, Present Senator,  
E. B. DOUGLAS, Chairman Miami Chapter Red Cross,  
R. A. REEDER, Chairman Relief Fund Committee.

### *Mayor's Official Statement*

Upon his return to Miami from New York, where he was when the storm struck, Mayor E. C. Romfh's first official act was to survey



the damage and issue a statement, which was entitled "Official Storm Statement." This document is preserved because of its historic value. It follows:

"From the thousands of telegrams pouring into Miami, hundreds of which are addressed to the mayor of the city, I am convinced a very much exaggerated idea of Miami's real condition has been created. I regard it as a duty to the public at large to set forth as briefly as possible the situation as it now exists and its relation to the future of this city.

"The West Indian hurricane which swept over an area of 60 miles on the Atlantic coast on September 18, extending 30 miles north and 30 miles south of Miami, was by far the most severe and destructive storm that ever touched the mainland of the United States. Miami in her 30 years of existence has never been materially damaged before.

"There was a great amount of damage to buildings through their unroofing, the breaking of windows and the blowing down of poorly constructed buildings in the outlying districts. The larger business buildings, the better constructed homes, hotels and apartments were mostly damaged by the breaking of glass and in some instances the coverings of roofs were loosened or blown off and thus the heavy rain created the most damage. There was great destruction to the tropical palms and foliage.

"The electric light plant, water and gas systems were put out of commission. The water and gas service now is normal. The electric system has been restored in the central business district and service to large residential areas is being added daily.

"The most regrettable part of the storm was the number of deaths which totals 106 to date in Dade County. There were 854 injured placed in regular and temporary hospitals, 450 of whom have been discharged. The citizens' committee did heroic work the first few days in caring for the injured. However, this work has now been taken over by the Red Cross and this organization is handling the situation with the utmost efficiency.

"Small buildings in outlying districts, cheaply constructed, were blown down. It was in these and in houseboats that the greatest number of deaths occurred. There was great damage done to yachts and pleasure boats, but most of these will be put in shipshape order for the coming season.



"It is remarkable that a city of 160,000 or more people should have gone through such a severe storm with comparatively so small number of dead and injured. This is accounted for by the fact that this city has the largest percentage of concrete buildings of any city in the United States.

"Of the 150 hotels in Miami, Miami Beach and Coral Gables, 75 per cent were not damaged to any great extent. The year around hotels are operating as usual. Of the 1,200 apartments, 70 per cent received little damage. All hotels and apartment houses will be completely repaired and put in first class condition within 60 days.

"There are thousands who have lost all and are destitute and who must have financial aid in order to get back upon a self-supporting basis. These are the smaller home owners, smaller tradesmen, workers and people of very moderate means. It is to aid these people that the citizens' relief committee and the Red Cross issue their appeal for assistance. That need is acute and genuine.

"But there are other thousands who have the finances or can make satisfactory arrangements to restore their own homes and replace effects damaged or destroyed. These are contributing to the aid of their destitute neighbors, but financing their own losses makes it impossible for them to contribute in sufficient amounts to supply all the urgent needs. Miami greatly appreciates the spontaneous sympathy which has been shown by the American people as expressed by President Coolidge.

"In the six days that have passed since the storm, this city has come back with a speed that is absolutely amazing. No one who has not been on the ground, checking up the progress, can realize the tremendous recovery a united, courageous, indefatigable citizenship has made.

"Day and night, with little sleep, tens of thousands of men and women have co-operatively labored, not only to relieve the suffering, to feed the hungry, to house the homeless, but to repair, rebuild and to remove the debris left in the wake of the storm.

"I want to give positive assurance that our friends will find Miami this winter the same enjoyable, hospitable, comfortable vacation city it has always been.

"I predict that Miami will make a world comeback. The people here have the enthusiasm, the will to do, an unshaken faith in the



future of this great city. It is the same people who have created the fastest growing city in America who are now turning their energies and enthusiasm to the work of reconstruction in Miami.

(Signed)

"CITY OF MIAMI, E. C. ROMFH, Mayor."

September 24, 1926.

### *Measures to Preserve Health*

The following was among the first of several bulletins issued by the Miami health department under the direction of Dr. A. W. Ziebold:

"The possibility of typhoid fever from our infected water supply is very apparent. The public is requested to report to the various stations for typhoid vaccination against this disease. It is also urgently requested that all water be boiled before using for drinking purposes. The various stations are listed below:

"Allapattah School House, N. W. 17th Avenue at 36th Street; Silver Bluff Fire Station, S. W. 22nd Avenue, one block south of Tigertail Road; Coconut Grove Fire Station, Coconut Grove; Little River Fire Station, West Dixie Highway at 79th Street; Jackson Memorial Hospital, N. W. 10th Avenue at 17th Street; Orange Glade School House, S. W. 8th Street at 27th Avenue; Lemon City High School, N. W. 2nd Avenue and 62nd Street.

"These stations are equipped to give vaccine and first aid to all those in the immediate vicinity and if the public will direct them to go to such stations and make a careful report of all injured, it will materially assist in bringing about a quick result."

The order was signed by J. W. Snyder, Medical Director.

### *Action To Prevent Profiteering*

Prompt action was taken to prevent profiteering, warning being issued the day after the storm addressed to all dealers in food supplies, signed by City Manager Frank H. Wharton and approved by Acting Mayor James H. Gilman:

"Any one found guilty of profiteering in food supplies of any description will be subject to immediate arrest, their places of business closed, license revoked, and all food supplies found on the premises confiscated. Citizens are urged to report any violation of this proclamation to the Mayor's Committee, at the City Hall. What is meant by profiteering is the exacting of prices in excess of those current on Friday, September 17, 1926."



## *Historic Hurricanes*

Numerous hurricanes have visited the southern and southeastern coasts of the United States during the past few years, and nearly every South Atlantic and Gulf port has suffered from one or more, Galveston, New Orleans, Mobile, Pensacola and Tampa being the principal sufferers on the Gulf, while Miami and Key West have been chief among the Atlantic ports to suffer from such visitations. The following summary was compiled from records of the United States Weather Bureau:

### *The Galveston Flood*

SEPTEMBER 8, 1900

Measured by losses of life and property and the depression of the barometer at Galveston, Texas, the hurricane of September 8, 1900, was the severest storm to that time ever to occur in the United States. On Galveston Island upward of 6,000 human beings were drowned or killed by falling buildings or flying debris, and property to the estimated value of \$30,000,000 was destroyed. Enormous losses of life and property were also reported in the inland coast country. The barometer reached a minimum of 28.48 inches at Galveston and was lower by .10 inch than any reading previously made at a station of the Weather Bureau. The greatest recorded wind velocity for a five-minute period, was 84 miles an hour at 6:15 p. m., and two miles were registered at a rate of 100 miles. At that time the anemometer was blown away. It was estimated that a velocity of at least 120 miles was attained between 6:15 and 8 p. m. Excepting Mount Washington and Pikes Peak, the record for high winds in the United States was established at Cape Lookout, N. C., August 18, 1879, where a velocity of 138 miles an hour was registered before the anemometer was blown away and the wind reached an estimated velocity of 165 miles an hour. During the tornado of May 27, 1896, at St. Louis, Mo., an extreme velocity of 120 miles an hour was recorded. The devastation at Galveston was caused principally by a storm wave, which swept in from the Gulf in advance of the hurricane's vortex. This wave, four feet in depth, struck the already submerged island, and destroyed the south, east and west portions of the city for a distance of two to five blocks inland. In other parts of the city many houses were destroyed, and none escaped injury.



*Storm That Discouraged Flagler*

OCTOBER 18, 1906

Origin over eastern Caribbean Sea. On the morning of the 18th the storm had reached near and to the eastward of Key West, where at 3 a. m. a minimum barometric reading of 29.30 inches was registered. It moved eastward to a point opposite the South Carolina coast, the center recurved to the westward and was then forced southward over the Florida peninsula by an area of high barometer that covered the North Atlantic coast districts. The lowest barometer reading in Florida was at Sand Key, 29.25 inches, and wind velocities of 75 miles an hour were recorded at that station. The highest velocity at Key West was 54 miles an hour, at 7:20 a. m. of the 18th. The revenue cutter Fessenden at Key West was the only large vessel in that port to be damaged. The quarter boats of the East Coast Extension were carried out to sea and many lives were lost. Forty-nine men were picked up by the Austrian steamer Jenny and returned to Key West, 24 were landed at Savannah, Ga., and a number were picked up by other steamers. The number of lives lost on the Extension was placed at 135 and the property damage there at \$200,000. Many orange groves and pineapple plantations were destroyed, and six lives were reported lost on farms. An old river packet, the St. Lucie, with 80 people on board was swamped near Elliott's Key and 23 lost. Thus the reported loss of life in that hurricane was 164. The property loss at Miami was estimated at \$160,000. No estimate of the general losses at Key West and through the hurricane district was given. It is said that Flagler seriously considered the abandonment of the overseas railroad enterprise after the storm, and that work was resumed upon it through the initiative and courage of his general manager, the late James R. Parrott, which Mr. Flagler later approved and commended.

*When Key West Was Inundated*

OCTOBER 11, 1909

Barometer at Key West fell to 28.52 inches at 11:40 a. m. At Sand Key the minimum was 28.36 inches. At that time this was believed to be the lowest atmospheric pressure ever observed in the United States, the lowest previous record being 28.48 inches during the Galveston hurricane of September 8, 1900. At Key West 6.13



inches of rain fell in two hours and fifteen minutes. The maximum wind velocity was 83 miles an hour from the northeast at 10:05 a. m. with an extreme velocity of 94 miles for one minute. At 11:40 a. m. the wind suddenly shifted from northeast to northwest and the barometer began to rise rapidly. At Miami the maximum velocity of the wind (about 60 miles) and the lowest pressure (29.22 inches) occurred at 5:30 p. m. In extreme southern Florida the rainfall at several places exceeded 8 to 10 inches in 24 hours. Damage at Key West was estimated at \$1,000,000. About 400 buildings were destroyed. The tide rose into the streets in the northern part of the city and the lifting power of the water combined with the fury of the wind caused many buildings to collapse or moved them from their foundations into the streets or vacant lots. A portion of a large concrete cigar factory was blown down. More than 300 boats were totally destroyed. At Miami the damage was much less, but several buildings were unroofed and flooded. The New March Villa, a hotel nearly completed, later known as the Plaza, was razed to the ground. Thousands of fruit and shade trees were blown down. The Key West Extension of the Florida East Coast Railway suffered considerable loss, portions of the track, trestles and floating equipment being carried away.



WHAT WAS LEFT OF CASINO AT HOLLYWOOD.



*A Severe Storm Without Much Loss*

OCTOBER 14, 1910

Barometer fell to 29.95 inches at 5 p. m. as recorded at Sand Key. Much rain fell the night of the 13th and the wind velocity steadily increased. At 3:30 p. m. the waves began to wash over the island, carrying the sand from under the light house and shifting to a position farther north. The barometer remained at about 29.60 inches till 8 p. m. on the 16th. High winds and heavy rains occurred at Key West on the 14th but at that point also the barometer began to rise on the 16th. This was a storm of much severity but without any loss of life reported. At Miami persons who happened to be caught out in the storm were forced to take shelter wherever they could and there spend the night. There was considerable damage of minor consequence—roofs were taken off and trees were blown down, but individual losses were not great. No estimate of the damages appears of record. The full force of the storm was felt on the keys, which are populated by only a few people—mostly fishermen.

*When Tampa and Gulf Ports Suffered*

OCTOBER 17, 1910

The barometer was lowest at Sand Key at 1:50 p. m., reading 28.40 inches. Estimated velocity of the wind 125 miles an hour. The boat house went to pieces and was washed into the sea. After the storm the island was covered with water about two feet deep at its shallowest point, and about 5 feet deep under the light house. At Key West the wind velocity was 90 miles an hour with gusts reaching 110 miles. The storm lasted 30 hours. The tide and sea swell were unusually high. The United States army dock and marine hospital were swept away. The damage at Key West was estimated at \$250,000. The destruction was mostly limited to marine property and to houses along the beach. The French line steamship *Louisiane* went ashore at Sombrero Light, but 600 passengers were safely removed by the revenue cutter *Forward*. A number of small schooners were wrecked. By midnight the barometer at Tampa had fallen to 29.30 inches, the wind velocity was 60 miles an hour. Forty vessels were grounded in the Hillsboro River. The Citrus Exchange estimated the damage to the crop at ten per cent of the total. Seven men were drowned in the wrecking of four fishing schooners at Punta Gorda; a negro was drowned in attempting to cross the Peace River near Nocatee, and a one-armed man and baby were drowned in



the vicinity of Thousand Islands. Dwellings and property were destroyed at Chokoloskee, and aid was required to feed and clothe the sufferers. The keys and islands south of Cape Romano were swept by great waves from the Gulf that reached far distances inland. Survivors could escape only by climbing trees. At Jupiter the lowest pressure was 29.21 inches at 3 a. m. of the 18th. A man was killed at Lemon City by falling timber. The American schooner Harry T. Hayward, from Baltimore to Knights Key, was blown ashore at Boca Raton. Three seamen were drowned; the rest of the crew were saved after clinging to the rigging for 12 hours. The vessel and cargo valued at \$110,000 were lost.

### *Second Galveston Storm*

AUGUST 16-17, 1915

A great storm swept over the coasts of Texas and Louisiana. In Louisiana no loss of life was reported and the property loss in that state did not exceed \$1,000,000. The greatest loss of life and property was at Galveston and thence northwest and westward for a considerable distance. The total loss of life was 275, to which the city of Galveston contributed 11; Galveston Island 42; and the dredges Houston and San Bernard and the tug Helen Henderson 69. The number of missing reported was 102. Twenty blocks of buildings were destroyed in Galveston and this was after the seawall had been built, though there can be no doubt that the seawall saved the city from destruction, for this storm is recorded by the Weather Bureau in some respects a storm of greater force than that of 1900 which visited Galveston with such staggering loss of life and property. Total losses were estimated at \$50,000,000 to which Galveston gave about \$6,000,000. The damage at Houston was \$1,000,000. Other losses were spread over a wide territory. Fully half the crops of Texas were destroyed, eleven large vessels and hundreds of smaller ones were lost and there was much damage to railroad and telegraph property. The barometer at Galveston was 28.63 inches, .15 of an inch higher than that in the storm of 1900, which was 28.48 inches. The lowest barometer reading at Houston was 28.20 inches, .28 inch lower than the lowest barometer reported at Galveston in 1900. At Galveston the wind velocity was 52 miles an hour from the northeast, and at Houston the wind was 80 miles an hour from the southeast. The greater damage in both Galveston storms was due to high water.



*New Orleans Storm*

SEPTEMBER 29, 1915

This is known as the New Orleans storm. The barometer reached the lowest point ever observed at an office of the U. S. Weather Bureau prior to the recent (September 18, 1926) hurricane. The reading was 28.11 inches at 5:50 a. m. This hurricane was equal to and possibly exceeded the second Galveston storm in intensity. The maximum velocity of the wind was 130 miles. For one mile it blew at the rate of 140 miles an hour. The number of lives lost was 275, and the property loss was \$13,000,000, to which New Orleans contributed \$5,000,000; shipping interests \$1,750,000; in the country outside of New Orleans, buildings, railroads, small craft, crops and communication lines about \$6,500,000. The damage to municipal property in New Orleans was estimated at \$500,000. This amount recently was announced by the City Manager of Miami as approximately the dam-



A TUMBLED DOWN SHACK AT MIAMI BEACH.



age to municipal property in Miami occasioned by the recent (1926) storm.

### *Hard Blow at Key West*

SEPTEMBER 9 AND 10, 1919

Barometer at Key West 28.81 inches. The anemometer caps were blown away at 7:30 p. m., on the 9th in gusts ranging between 75 and 80 miles, and at 3:16 the following morning the collector of the recording raingage was blown off. Winds of gale force lasted from 7 a. m. of the 9th to about 9:30 p. m. of the 10th. The apex of the hurricane was reached at midnight of the 9th. Damage estimated at \$2,000,000. Three lives were lost by drowning. Rainfall 13.13 inches. The lowest barometer recorded was at Sand Key, 28.30 inches, with wind velocity 84 miles.

### *Tornado Within a Hurricane*

SEPTEMBER 10, 1919

The severe tropical disturbance which passed through the Florida Straits and several days later caused such an appalling loss of life and destruction of property at Corpus Christi, Texas, was central during the afternoon of September 10 over the extreme southeastern Gulf of Mexico. The high winds that had prevailed over extreme southern Florida in connection with the tropical storm had diminished by the morning of the 10th, but a moderate gale was still blowing and the wind continued at this force at Goulds, a small town 20 miles southwest of Miami, until just before the occurrence of the tornado, when there was a lull for probably 15 minutes. The tornado developed either over the ocean or Biscayne Bay, and its original form undoubtedly was that of a waterspout. It moved in a west, northwest direction, directly with the strong southeast wind that prevailed at the time on the southeast coast of Florida. After leaving the Bay it crossed a three-mile stretch of marsh land and entered a pine wood immediately east of Goulds, where the path rapidly widened. At Goulds the path was about 600 feet in width. After passing over Goulds the storm moved over a cleared area of about one-half mile in extent and entered another pine wood. The path here was 100 feet or less. Nineteen buildings were damaged and six were demolished. There were no deaths but five persons were injured from falling debris. Occupants of buildings that were demolished heard the storm approaching and saved themselves by rushing out and throwing



themselves upon the ground. Hundreds of trees were uprooted and blown down, and many of them were wrapped around with large pieces of tin and sheet iron roofing.

### *When Corpus Christi Was Destroyed*

SEPTEMBER 13, 1919

At Corpus Christi, Texas, 284 lives were lost in the city and district, and \$20,000,000 of property damage was reported. Twenty-three blocks of homes were destroyed by a tidal wave which reached a depth of 15 feet in places. The number of missing was reported at 174. The lowest barometer pressure was 28.65 inches at Corpus Christi at 3 p. m. September 14; 29.73 at Brownsville, Texas, at 1 p. m. September 14, and 29.65 inches at Galveston, Texas. at 12:30 a. m. September 14. The lowest barometer was that of the steamship Fred W. Wells, 27.36 inches, which was lower than that in the recent storm at Miami, but the Weather Bureau explains that barometer readings in hurricane weather always are lower over water than over land. The low barometer of 27.61 inches at Miami is the lowest ever recorded by a Weather Bureau office in the United States. Lower barometric pressure has been recorded in the Eastern Hemisphere; at Vohemere, on the coastal lowland of Northeastern Madagascar, on February 3, 1899, 24.76 inches, probably established the lowest pressure ever observed in the world.

### *Tornado at Miami*

APRIL 5, 1925

While this narrative has to do especially with hurricanes, and all other storms to which reference has been made were disturbances of that character, except the tornado at Goulds, it is not out of order to include mention of a disastrous tornado that visited the Miami district on Sunday, April 5, 1925, because of its unusual intensity and for the very circumstance that it was different from the usual type of storm which more commonly visits this part of the country. The storm developed over the Everglades near Hialeah, four miles northwest of Miami. The funnel cloud was first observed by golf players on the municipal golf links at Hialeah at 1 p. m. The tornado developed immediately following the union of two dense cloud masses. After the tornado had been in progress about 20 minutes it stopped its progressive movement for five minutes. Its location at this time was over the White Belt dairy near Lemon City. One person was killed at the dairy, one was fatally injured and 20 others were hurt.

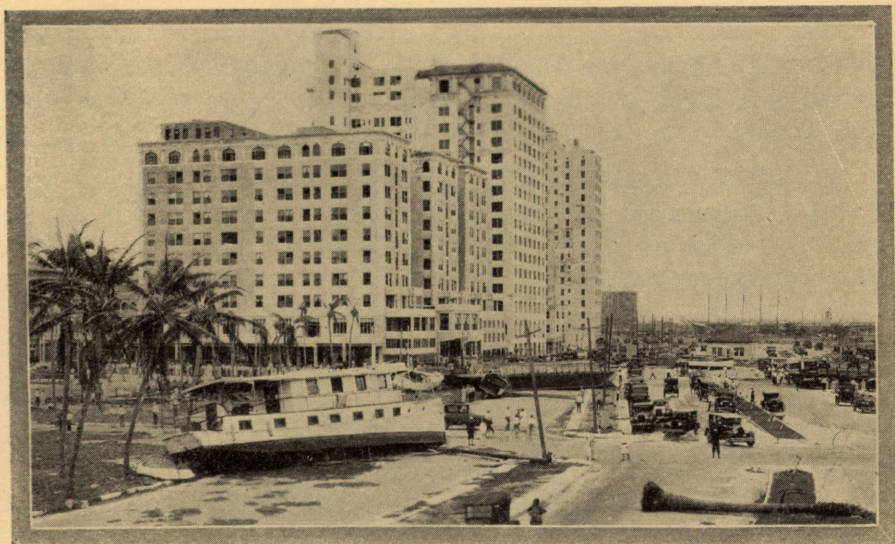


The loss at the dairy from the destruction of buildings, motor trucks, automobiles and livestock was estimated at \$100,000. The funnel cloud rose and descended twice during the stationary period, causing many to think that a second tornado had followed closely behind the first. After the storm resumed its northeastward course, it moved over several suburban communities, causing other deaths and damage. The total number killed was five, the injured 35, and the damage \$300,000.

### *Havana Suffers Severe Losses*

OCTOBER 20, 1926

The people of Miami were thrown into a flurry of excitement by receiving warnings of a storm approaching by way of Havana and Key West from the Caribbean Sea. Many stores were closed and people began to make their several ways home. Thousands remained down town. The Red Cross reported that it had cared for 20,000. No doubt the nervousness was due to the recent devastating hurricane of September 18. Very little damage was done at Miami, though the wind attained a velocity of 50 miles, estimated at 70 miles at Miami Beach. Losses at Havana were estimated at 650 killed and \$100,000,000 property damage. Both estimates probably were exaggerated. No official report is available at the time this is written.



THE McALLISTER HOTEL WAS NOT DAMAGED TO ANY GREAT EXTENT, BUT THE STORM LEFT SUNDRY CRAFT BEACHED ABOUT IT.



## *Other Notable Disasters*

JOHNSTOWN FLOOD—A dam on the little Conemaugh River, nine miles above Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa., broke on May 31, 1889, during an extraordinary rainfall. The impounded water swept over the city, destroying property estimated at a value of \$10,000,000, and causing a loss of life estimated at from 2,300 to 5,000.

CHARLESTON EARTHQUAKE—A large part of Charleston, S. C., was destroyed by earthquake August 31, 1886, with the loss of many lives and much property damage.

JACKSONVILLE FIRE—A third of the residence district and half of the business houses, and, with few exceptions, all of the city and county buildings in Jacksonville, Fla., were destroyed by fire May 3, 1901, with a property loss estimated at \$12,000,000.

IROQUOIS THEATRE FIRE—The Iroquois theater in Chicago was burned December 30, 1903, causing the loss of 582 lives, with over 300 others missing.

BALTIMORE FIRE—The business district of Baltimore was destroyed by fire in February, 1904, causing a property loss of \$80,000,000. No loss of life reported.

SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE—Earthquake rended and fire swept San Francisco April 18, 1906, causing the death of 500 and rendering 200,000 homeless. Property losses were estimated at \$350,000,000.

DAYTON FLOOD—Overflow of the Miami River in Ohio March 25, 1913, caused what is known as the Dayton flood, drowning a total of 255 and other loss of life made a total of 361 in the Miami Valley. The property loss was \$66,000,000, a fifth of which was caused by fire.

## *Notable Marine Disasters*

STEAMBOAT SULTANA Sunk in Mississippi River, seven miles above Memphis, by boiler explosion, with 1,400 exchanged Union prisoners of war on board, April 27, 1865.

ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS Rhone and Wye, and about 50 other vessels were driven ashore by a hurricane and wrecked at St. Thomas, West Indies, October 29, 1867, with a loss of 1,000 lives.



U. S. BATTLESHIP MAINE blown up in Havana harbor February 15, 1898, with the loss of 260 lives.

SEVERAL STEAMSHIPS, including the Main, the Bremen and the Saale were burned at Hoboken docks June 30, 1900, with the loss of 140 lives and \$10,000,000 property damage.

STEAMSHIP GENERAL SLOCUM was burned going through Hell Gate, East River, New York, June 15, 1904, with the loss of 1,021 lives.

STEAMER NORGE wrecked off Scottish coast June 28, 1904, with the loss of 646 lives.

WHITE STAR STEAMSHIP TITANIC sunk from collision with iceberg April 14-15, 1912, North Atlantic, lives lost 1,517.

JAPANESE STEAMER Kickermaru went down off the coast of Japan carrying 1,000 to death, September 28, 1912.

EMPRESS OF IRELAND, Canadian Pacific steamship, sunk in collision with Danish collier Storstad in St. Lawrence River May 29, 1914; lives lost 1,024.

LUSITANIA, Cunard, bound from New York to England, sunk by German submarine, May 7, 1915, with 1,198 lives lost, including 124 Americans.

PROVENCE, French auxiliary cruiser, sunk in Mediterranean February 26, 1916. Nearly 4,000 on board and only 870 saved. This probably was the greatest of all marine disasters; the Titanic next.

CHINESE STEAMER HSIN YU sunk off the coast of China with the loss of 1,000 lives, August 29, 1916.

VANGUARD, British warship, blown up at her dock in a British port with the loss of 800 lives, July 9, 1917.

U. S. S. CYCLOPS, with 293 on board, left the Barbados, West Indies, March 4, 1918, and has never been heard of since. Presumably she went down with all on board.

FRENCH STEAMSHIP sunk in Bay of Biscay January 12, 1920, with the loss of 500 lives.

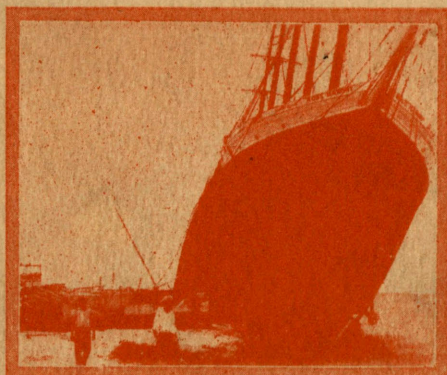
CHINESE STEAMER HONGKONG sunk March 18, 1921, by striking a rock near Swatow, with the loss of 1,000 lives.





SURVIVORS SURVEYING REMAINS OF THEIR SHATTERED HOME.





SCHOONER ROSE MAHONY BEACHED  
AND CAREENING.